



Thursday, November 5, 2015

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ROBBERY THUGS ARE LOCKED UP

Report by Simon Stone

THREE robbers who went on a rampage around Dudley borough attacking women and teenagers have been jailed for a total of 20 years.

Saffie Ullah, Haseeb Choudhury and Yousaf Khalid had been driving around Dudley on the night of August 15, 2014, looking for victims who would be 'easy targets'.

They struck first at around 11.40pm when they pulled up alongside a couple on Windsor Crescent, Netherton, who were walking home after a night out.

The gang attacked them, stealing belongings that included mobile phones and cash.

Not content with the one robbery the group decided to continue their crime spree, driving around the area looking for their next victim.

She came in the form of a 20-year-old woman who was walking along St Peters Road at around 11.50pm.

But she proved not to be such an easy target and put up a fight. Then the robbers turned vicious, kicking and punching the victim because she would not give up without a struggle.

But after a sustained beating she suffered severe injuries that required treatment in hospital.

The thugs also damaged a house on City Road, Tividale, and just after midnight assaulted a man and woman on High Street, Dudley.

Weapons

Officers were alerted to the series of assaults and a description of the vehicle being used was issued to all patrols. Moments later, the car — an orange Seat Leon — was spotted and stopped by officers.

Found inside were weapons used in the attacks, including a golf club.

They had initially used a Fiat Punto in their search for victims.

Choudhury, 21, of Hill Crest Road, Kates Hill, Dudley, admitted conspiracy to commit robbery and two assaults at an earlier hearing and was sentenced to five years in prison.

Ullah, aged 21, and Khalid, 19, both of Bridgewater Crescent, Kates Hill, were both found guilty of conspiracy to commit robbery and two assaults and were sentenced to seven years and eight years in prison respectively.

Detective Constable Gareth Homer, from Dudley CID, said: "Their offending spree has affected six victims in four different offences. These men were systematically picking victims whom they felt would be easy targets."

"I feel they would have gone on to commit more offences but thanks to the quick actions of the officers, they were arrested."

"The offenders will now spend a long time behind bars to reflect on their actions and I hope that this offers some comfort to their victims."

POPULAR POPPY ART TO MARK REMEMBRANCE



Mayor of Dudley Councillor Steve Walther surrounded by thousands of poppies at Dudley Council House, which were made by local people

MORE than 2,000 hand-crafted poppies are covering the inside of Dudley's Council House in the run up to Remembrance Day on Sunday.

The poignant display, entitled Poppies Everywhere, has been created to mark Armistice Day on November 11.

Inspiration for the project came from the huge field of ceramic poppies that were on show at the Tower of London last year.

A total of 888,246 poppies were included in that display, representing lives lost in the First World War.

Poppies on display at the Priory Road council base were made using a variety of materials including glass, pottery, leather, paper and wool by adult learners and community groups across the borough.

Mayor

The Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Steve Walther, said it was a remarkable display.

He added: "Since the First World War the poppy has come to symbolise those that have been killed in war and have also been used to commemorate that sacrifice."

"More than 50 groups, from across the whole spectrum, such as guide groups, people with learning difficulties, Age UK, just to name a few, have got involved, which I think is remarkable. It has now become a centre piece, which I'm very happy about."

The poppies will be displayed until a few days after Armistice Day, when some will go to a display at RAF Cosford and some will be sold in aid of the Royal British Legion.

Towns and villages across Dudley borough will be marking Remembrance Day with parades and war memorial services on Sunday.

PLANNING

Mosque decision deferred by judges

A DECISION over the future of a controversial scheme to build a new mosque in Dudley has been deferred for judges to consider their verdict.

Court of Appeal judges heard two days of legal argument last week in relation to an area of land in Hall Street earmarked for the mosque.

Lords Justices Lewison and Treacy and Lady Justice Gloster have up to three months in which they can make their decision on the case. But it is hoped that a written judgment will be handed down before the courts rise for the Christmas break.

TALENT

Collabro to switch on Merry Hill lights

BOY band Collabro, who won Britain's Got Talent in 2014 with their versions of show songs, will be visiting into Merry Hill for the switching on of the shopping centre's Christmas lights.

A weekend of entertainment is being organised on November 14 and 15.

The party kicks off at 11am on the Saturday with the switch-on at the main stage at 4 pm. Collabro and Old Men Grooving, who also took part in the TV talent show, will be performing. Santa's Parade will take place from 3.30pm.

ATTACK

Stabbed teenager needed 20 stitches

A TEENAGER was stabbed in the street in Brierley Hill after he and his friends were set upon by another group of men.

West Midlands Police said the 19-year-old needed 20 stitches after the incident in Brettell Lane on Saturday at around 9pm.

Force spokesman Deb Edmunds said: "A man suffered a slash injury to his arm after being attacked by a man with a utility or craft knife."

The teenager was with a group of friends when they became involved in a dispute with another group of teenagers. Anyone with information should contact police on 101.

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PETITION BID TO SAVE MUSEUM



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A HEADTEACHER has spoken of his pride after receiving his OBE for services to education at Buckingham Palace.

Andrew Griffiths was presented with the honour by Prince William and talked briefly with him about the present challenges facing education.

Mr Griffiths was formerly headteacher of Ellowes Hall Sports College, in Lower Gornal, during a period of success for the school. During his leadership he took Ellowes Hall from near the bottom of the league tables to its current position as one of the leading schools in the borough.

He is now head of a multi-academy trust, called Invictus, which comprises secondary schools Ellowes Hall, Kingswinford School, Ounsdale High School, in Wombourne, and Edgecliff High School, in Kinver.

Mr Griffiths, aged 60, of Stourbridge, travelled to London with his wife Lucy, formerly headteacher at Jesson's CE Primary for 22 years, and daughter Ruth.

"I am still overwhelmed by it all to be honest," he said. "Prince William presented me with the honour. He asked me what I thought the challenges for

education were. I told him it was all about ensuring students get access to the best learning and the best jobs."

"It was a wonderful occasion and an experience I will never forget," he said.

Mr Griffiths has lived in the West Midlands since 1983 and his first post in the area was as a history teacher at Pensnett School.

Mr Griffiths taught in Walsall for two years before returning to Ellowes as deputy headteacher.

He recently spoke to the Princess Royal when she visited Himley Hall Sailing Club.

37,000 patients use urgent care centre

MORE than 37,000 patients have been through the doors of new urgent care centre since it opened seven months ago to take the pressure off a busy A&E.

The site replaced the walk-in centre at Holly Hall in Dudley.

Since it opened in April, medical staff at the urgent care centre have seen 37,446 people with the most common illnesses being sore throats, coughs, stomach pains and rashes.

Health chiefs said the centre was helping to reduce the number of people attending A&E unnecessarily.

All patients needing urgent treatment arrive at the hospital through the emergency department.

They are assessed by a nurse who decides whether they need to go to the urgent care centre or the emergency department. If their condition is not believed to be urgent, they may be referred to their GP.

Health chiefs say this takes the decision-making out of patients' hands and should reduce the number of people being treated in A&E who do not need to be there.

Addition

Clinical director for urgent care Hassan Paraiso said the centre had been successful in reducing pressure on the emergency centre. He said: "The urgent care centre has been a great addition to the hospital and has helped to ensure our emergency department can be used appropriately, treating patients with life threatening conditions, serious illnesses or fractures."

Thirty new jobs were created when the centre opened and Malling Health was awarded the five-year £18million contract to run the 24/7 service.

The decision to close the Holy Hall walk-in centre proved unpopular with the community.

Healthwatch Dudley, which represents the views of patients in the borough, was drafted in to carry out an independent patient survey of people attending the accident and emergency department at Russells Hall Hospital and at the walk-in centre.

The results were then used by Dudley CCG to help with plans for the replacement service.

Scouts launch Poppy Appeal



Amblecote Scout Group selling poppies in Sainsbury's, alongside customer services manager Marie Cooney

AMBLECOTE Scout Group launched the Annual Poppy Appeal at their local Sainsbury's supermarket.

The group was supported by members of The Royal British Legion Riders Branch, who together with store colleagues and the Amblecote Royal British Legion, will be running this year's campaign in store, until November 11.

For the first time this year, members of the store "Craft-&" Community Club, will be donating their

vast collection of knitted, sewn and crocheted poppies and poppy related items to boost the collection in store.

The ladies making up the group consist of colleagues family members and customers and first got together in August.

There will also be poppy inspired products on sale in-store, including jute bags and two flower bouquets, with all profits going to The Royal British Legion and for the first time, online customers will be able

to make a donation and receive a stick on paper poppy, when ordering before November 11.

Last year, in honour of the Centenary of the First World War, customers and colleagues helped raise £7m for The Royal British Legion.

Customers will be able to recycle poppies in-store after Armistice Day, from the November 12 to 24, with all collected poppies going back to the Royal British Legion, to either make new poppies or to generate more funds.

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Concern at figures for migrants in the region

MORE than 56,000 migrants have registered to work and claim benefits in the Black Country over the last six years, new figures reveal

And the number of foreign nationals granted national insurance numbers increased by 39 per cent in just one year, according to the latest figures from the Office for National Statistics. The national average is 26 per cent.

In 2014 a total of 9,806 migrants registered to work across the region, a rise for 2,747 from the previous year. The figures also show that since 2008 a total of 56,027 migrants have registered for national insurance numbers in the Black Country.

Local councillors say they are concerned about the potential strain on resources prompted by influx of migrants, while an MEP has accused local authorities in the region of being 'pathetic and weak' for failing to stand up to the Government.

Last year Sandwell saw 3,808 new registrations, an increase of 37 per cent from 2013, while almost 20 per cent of all residents in the borough were born outside the UK.

Wolverhampton saw 3,536 registrations, an increase of 34 per cent from the previous year. In Walsall there 1,559 migrants registered, a rise of 42 per cent.

Dudley saw the biggest rise with 903 NI registrations in 2014, an increase of 63 per cent. West Midlands MEP Bill Etheridge, also a Dudley councillor, said he was stunned by the magnitude of the increase in the Black Country.

Police step up patrols at park

YOBs have been starting fires and smoking drugs in a Stourbridge park.

Police will be increasing patrols around Swan Pool Park, in Norton, following concerns from residents.

The Friends of Swan Pool Park group is trying to bring improvements to the park, off Studley Gate. A £9,000 youth shelter has been installed alongside new benches. Officers claim they have been called to 'large groups of youths' congregating, causing anti-social behaviour.

Sgt Andy Holder, from Norton neighbourhood police team, said: "Increased patrols will be conducted by officers."

"Any youths seen causing anti-social behaviour will be encountered. Warning letters will be issued and proportionate use of stop and search powers regarding drug use."

Future of venue is back on agenda

DUDLEY Hippodrome's future is back in the spotlight after a deadline passed for interested groups to submit plans.

Dudley Council bosses are expected to reveal how many organisations have tabled bids to save the venue this week.

Problem of poor pitches prompts more investment

TWO fifths of sports pitches in Dudley borough are in a 'poor' state, according to a new report.

An investigation has found that only 87 of 167 pitches were found to be average or above average condition — and 70 were rated as poor.

It comes as council chiefs unveiled a scheme, worth up to £2 million, to create three new all-weather pitches at The Dell Stadium, in Pensnett, on land near Dudley College off Priory Road and at Hillcrest School, Netherton. But campaigners are urging for action over existing pitches after pitch hire fees were increased by two per cent this year.

Four pitches on King George V playing fields at Wordsley Park were among those in a poor state. At Greenfields, near Kingswinford Community Centre, the two adult football pitches are both rated as poor.

Brian Sutton, of the Dudley and Cradley Heath Football League, said: "Money has not been spent on these pitches for years."

Dudley councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "We are passionate about encouraging people to lead healthy and active lifestyles through sport. We have to balance this with the significant cuts to our funding from national government, but we are working closer than ever with community groups to look at ways of delivering services differently."

"We are already investigating the potential for extra funding from the FA to improve pitches in three areas of the borough."

Vagrant found accommodation

ACCOMMODATION has been found for a homeless man who pitched a tent off Dudley high street.

Concerns were raised after the man arrived at Rutland Passage on October 20. Police arrested the man on suspicion of vagrancy and his dog was put in kennels. A team of officers have worked to find him accommodation in Lye and he and his dog have now been reunited.

A West Midlands Police spokesman said: "Our officers have finally been able to secure accommodation for a rough sleeper and his dog who had recently pitched a tent in Dudley."

"The officers had been trying to get the pair into a hostel. While in custody, our team worked with a range of specialists to fast track his case."

Qatar flights to take off in March

QATAR Airways is to launch new service between Birmingham Airport and Doha on March 30 next year. The city is the fourth destination in the UK served by Qatar Airways which will operate eight flights per week.

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Buddy and Keyah with the youngsters

New zoo arrivals utterly adorable

IT has been a double celebration for a family of otters at Dudley Zoo after five youngsters started to emerge from the underground den where they were born.

The utterly-adorable babies were born to Buddy and Keyah around two or three months ago, according to keepers at the attraction, in Castle Hill.

Staff have caught glimpses of the pups popping out the den, called a holt. Fast thinking keepers were able to get the first photographs of the cute animals. In them, the youngsters

can be seen being cared for by their doting parents while taking their first looks at outside.

And it has been a double celebration for the family as Keyah has just celebrated her sixth birthday.

Keepers at the zoo said because the youngsters were born underground it was difficult to know exactly when they had been born.

Section leader Jay Haywood said: "Although we do not know the exact date of birth of the five pups we think it was between two and three months ago. They are now starting to eat solid

food and are looking for their own meals."

Mr Haywood said to help them along they were providing small chunks of meat and fish for them.

He added: "Even though they have only recently started to make an appearance they are doing well and getting more and more independent each day."

Buddy, aged 10, arrived at the zoo from Lake District Wildlife Park this April as a new mate for Keyah.

Keepers said the pair had fell for each other right away.

NEWS IN BRIEF

22-room home plan turfed out

PLANS to turn a warehouse into a house of multiple occupation have been rejected. Krundil Developments wanted to turn the building, in Penman Road, Cradley Heath, into a home with 22 rooms.

Neighbours lodged eight objections, claiming they were not informed what sort of accommodation would be offered. There were also concerns over parking and increased noise.

It was refused on the grounds of insufficient recycling facilities, lack of off-street parking and the building being too close to another home.

Old Liberace car to go on display

THE stand from Dudley-based Footman James at The Classic Motor Show will feature a glitzy car reputedly once owned by the flamboyant entertainer Liberace.

The specialist motor insurance broker has secured a 1931 Cadillac Fleetwood Drop Head Coupe featuring 23.7 carat gold leaf clad bodywork, silver external door handles and 24ct gold-plated internal door handles. It will go on display at the NEC, Birmingham from November 13-15.

Today, the car is owned by Cheshire based enthusiast Mike Radcliffe.

Speed crackdown clocks 42 drivers

MORE than 40 drivers were caught speeding in an hour-long check on a road in Sedgley.

Drivers were clocked flouting the 30mph limit on Northway during the operation which saw speed campaigners joined by PCSOs and councillors. The highest speed was 46mph with a total of 42 drivers caught travelling above 35mph in only an hour.

Campaigners hope the findings will convince Dudley Council to introduce more speed-calming measures.

Christmas fair at pub to aid animal charity

A CHRISTMAS gift fair raising money to feed horses at the Animal Healing Trust will take place in Dudley later this month.

It will be held at The Bell pub on Bromsgrove Road, Belbroughton on Saturday, November 28 from 11am to 4pm.

Designer jewellery, clothing, wellness and beauty products, candles and Christmas crafts are among the items that will be on sale at the fair.

To book a stall call 01562731928.

Church autumn fair

ST Andrew's Church, in Bilston Street, Sedgley, hosts an autumn fair this weekend. Stalls will include Christmas gifts and cards, toys, games and crafts, home-made cakes, toiletries, clothes, books and bric-a-brac. It takes place from 10am to 1pm with proceeds to church funds.



Ministry trainee Rachel Saffery, from Old Hill, at the Grade II-listed Holy Trinity Church in Old Hill, where a six-figure revamp is planned

£100,000 hope for church upgrade

AN historic church in the Black Country is putting plans forward for a six figure revamp, which will see it modernised for the community.

The Grade II-listed Holy Trinity Church, in Old Hill, near Cradley Heath, is looking to develop and create new seating, flooring, storage and office space, costing in the region of at least £100,000.

Church leaders are now inviting people along to their Vision Day on Sunday November 15 at 10.45am, which will lay out the Parochial Church Council's plans for the next year and encourage family members to support and contribute towards the project.

Churchwarden Rachel Ford, 55, said: "I'm very excited to be in the consultation stages with the proposal and looking forward to updating the local community and to hear their thoughts of our plans at the meeting in a couple of weeks."

"The church building has been part of the life and fabric of both the community of Old Hill and the Holy Trinity church family for almost 140 years."

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with Mark Andrews

Man, that ridiculous PC crowd are back

REALLY, I should be livid that the politically-correct barmy have taken it upon themselves to indoctrinate our children yet further by banning the use of phrases such as 'sissy' or 'man-up' in the playground.

Aside from the fact that I am fairly sure that no schoolchild has said 'sissy' since about 1975, I do think the way that the education system abuses its privileged position to brainwash impressionable youngsters with political correctness and green ideology is one of the most sinister developments of the past 20 years or so.

Particularly as it has coincided with Britain's schools plunging down the world league tables in the things that really do matter, like reading, writing, and doing sums.

Groups of pupils will also be encouraged to inform on their peers to an appointed 'Gender Champion'. Wasn't that sort of thing supposed to have died out with the fall of the Berlin Wall and all that?

And yet, strangely enough, I do find myself agreeing with the PC brigade on at least one aspect of this assault on free speech.

'Man-up' is a truly hateful phrase, and children really should be taught that it is never acceptable to use it. In this context at least, 'man' is a noun, not a verb. Yes, you can man a car park. But you can't man-up, man-down or anything else. That's why teachers should be telling them it's banned.

■ ■ ■

A NEW survey, compiled by a think-tank nobody has ever heard of, says Wolverhampton and Sandwell are the two most miserable places in the UK.

Really? I can't believe that. I mean what do people in the West Midlands have to be miserable about?

After all, it's not as if we are constantly patronised by a liberal London elite which seems to revel in forcing its strange values on us, is it?

■ ■ ■

AND I bet if the people in power actually did start listening to folk in this area, they could save a bit of money.

Over the past few months we have been repeatedly told how ministers of successive governments were dazzled and 'mesmerised' by Camilla Batmanghelidjh, and were persuaded into pouring millions of pounds into the appallingly managed Kids Company. All the evidence suggests that much of this money has been wasted.

Yet, I bet if they had sought the advice of anybody from the Black Country, they would not have been 'mesmerised' at all. They would have come to the same conclusion that I did several years ago.

That Camilla Batmanghelidjh was just a fruitcake in silly clothes. And think how many police stations that cash would have paid for.



Mary during her fundraising skydive back in 2011



The protest in Rome, which Mary attended



Roy Shipley seen with his wife Michelle in 2009

Mary continues fight over asbestos deaths

One mother is seeking justice for workers who may have been affected by asbestos.
ADAM BURLING reports

MEN working long shifts in dust-filled factories, with no thought for health and safety and there is not a mask in sight.

This may sound like a scene from generations ago – but it has been happening as recently as the last 20 years.

And ex-workers are continuing to die after developing asbestos-related diseases.

The issue is now becoming more prominent than ever as manufacturers face court cases from the families that have been left behind.

In the Black Country, one woman is using her anger and grief over her son's death to make sure other people are not left in the same position.

Mary Law's fight began when her son Roy Shipley died at the age of 51, after a career working as an electrician in factories where he was exposed to asbestos.

Campaign

Since then she has been battling for greater compensation for the families of asbestos victims.

Now the 77-year-old from Dudley has taken her campaign to Italy where a ruling against the boss of a firm which allegedly contributed to the death of hundreds was overturned. Mrs Law, whose son died in 2010, opened the Arc-Aid charity shop in New Street, Dudley, four years ago.

After getting involved with the Mesothelioma UK charity, she became aware of the case against Swiss billionaire Stephan Schmidheiny who was accused of failing to ensure the safety of workers in asbestos-cement plants run by his now defunct Eternit group in Italy in the 1970s and 80s.

More than 3,000 workers died.

He was convicted in 2012, after a three-year trial, and sentenced in absentia to 16 years in prison.



Mary Law outside the Arc-Aid shop with Stuart Baker, of construction industry union UCATT

But a court in Rome has since ruled that he should not have been convicted because the verdict came more than 12 years after the crime.

This made the case subject to a 'limitation' law. Mrs Law and fellow protesters waved banners and placards outside the Italian court and is planning to attend an appeal hearing in Belgium.

"I'm furious about what has happened. I'm

very angry about the lack of support for the families of victims," she says. "In this country the Government is not ensuring that people get enough compensation."

"My son had mesothelioma of the abdomen and didn't stand a chance."

A court ruling in 2013 meant thousands of sufferers and their dependants in the UK will be able to get damages from a special £350 million pot over the next decade.

Those diagnosed after July 25, 2012, who cannot see former employers as they have gone bust or insurance details were lost, will be eligible.

Mrs Law says thousands of families are not getting enough compensation.

About 2,400 people die every year of the disease and numbers are set to increase over the next 30 years, with an estimated death toll of between 56,000 and 63,000.

It comes as a cross-party group of MPs have called for the eradication of all the remaining asbestos in Britain's workplaces and public buildings.

A report by the all-party parliamentary group on occupational safety and health calls for regulations requiring the safe phased and planned removal of all the remaining asbestos in Britain.

The parliamentary group found asbestos is still a serious threat.

This year, according to official figures, 5,000 people in Britain are likely to die prematurely as a result of asbestos exposure.

This is around three times the number of road accident deaths.

Research

Aside from campaigning, Mrs Law also works as a chiropodist and is a dedicated fundraiser, recently scaling the heights of Mount Snowdon in aid of Mesothelioma research.

She completed the walk up the highest Welsh peak with husband Bill, aged 80, and friends Ian Halls and Ian Edgington, to raise nearly £2,000 for charity.

She has undertaken a number of charity events, including a sky dive in 2011, to raise funds into the research of the disease following the death of her son.

She is determined to keep going – and in the process raise the profile of the battle facing the families of people who died after being exposed to asbestos.

The memory of her son will stay with her throughout, and keep her going in the fight for justice.

She says: "Losing my son was devastating, he was a strong, lovely man who had achieved much. If I could have done something like I am about to do to have saved him, I would have done so willingly."

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

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money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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Lack of media interest in speedway

IN 1960 I went to my first speedway meeting and have followed the sport ever since. I started in Edinburgh, then Wimbledon, Halifax, Coventry and now Cradley. I have always been pleased at the way in which the sport has welcomed families.

No problems with fans mixing together – no trouble. Even going to Poland and seeing the way in which we were welcomed.

But unfortunately, we have lost tracks for housing, other sports and because of the 'noise'. Changes have been made to accommodate these issues, with silencers being

one. But now we have to put up with a curfew that councils have imposed. Last week's Cradley meeting was stopped due to the curfew. We had only had ten heats but the meeting was finished due to this restriction.

The other part of being a sport that is ignored is in the coverage that we get in the media. When we have a world champion who is British the general media is lacking in its support. Please help us celebrate our success before we are robbed of our sport.

A BLACKWELL
Wollaston

Petition on art gallery closure bid

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

dudley.chrons@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Legislation could benefit thousands

ON 6 November, MPs will have the chance to support an important piece of legislation that could benefit hundreds of thousands of patients across the UK.

As custodians of the museum, the council should be looking at ways to protect and promote it, not discard it and deprive our town of yet another piece of its illustrious history.

I recognise that cuts have to be made, but not at the cost of such a significant asset. Councillors have suggested the relocation of the museum's treasures elsewhere in the borough, but that misses the point; the town has already lost so much over the years, it cannot afford to lose anything else, and deprive future generations of chance to explore their heritage.

I have created a petition, urging the council to reconsider their decision. I implore anyone who feels the same way to sign it.

The petition can be found at: <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/p/savedudleyatum>

R CROMPTON
Dudley

be more widely available. Backed by the UK's largest breast cancer charity, Breast Cancer Now, along with a host of other charities including Prostate Cancer UK, Alzheimer's Society and Bloodwise, the Bill needs 100 MPs to vote in favour to take it to the next stage.

More work needs to be done to secure the parliamentary support it needs.

Time is running out, so as well as calling on our MP to back this bill that would help hundreds of thousands of patients, I would ask others to join me and add their support to the campaign by visiting breastcancernow.org/unlockdrugs

J MCGUIRE
Dudley

With these drugs often being very-low cost, it makes economic as well as clinical sense for them to

Disposables cost more

WITH regards to reading the letter in The Chronicle (October 22) by E Ward Davis about people who can't afford terry nappies shouldn't have children.

Let me tell you, it's more expensive to buy disposables than terry nappies.

The fact you have dogs and because of the 5p carrier bag charge your attitude is 'I will not pick my dog poo up'. You can buy a 100 poo bags for a £1 so my answer to you is if you can't afford poo bags don't have dogs'.

Let's just hope you can afford the fine of £75 per dog for each time you leave your dog mess on the street.

L WILLETTS
Halesowen

Irresponsible to not clean up

REGARDING the letter by E A Ward-Davies 'Not happy over smelly nappies' (Chronicle, October 22).

Is your issue with disposable nappies or the fact you have to now pay 5p for a carrier bag?

How irresponsible of you to not clean up after your four dogs.

Maybe you should take a leaf out of your own book and stick a terry nappy on your pooches or buy some poop bags. If you can't afford them, don't have dogs.

LISA BUTCHER
Brierley Hill

Don't have dogs

I AGREE with the comments about babies' nappies (Letters, October 22). However, I say to the writer 'if you can't afford poo bags you shouldn't have a dog!'

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Kingswinford

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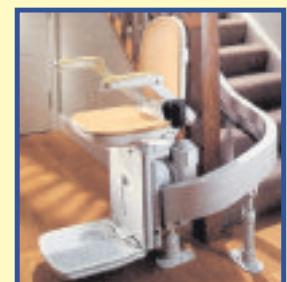
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Email: reception@rydalewindows.co.uk

Key point of contact: Sales advisors

Key area of activity/sectors: Windows and conservatory manufacturers and installers

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New ring-tailed lemur arrivals Itzy and Bitzy with their mother Phoebe at Dudley Zoo

MEET Itzy and Bitzy – the tiny lemur twins born at Dudley Zoo. Keepers thought the names would suit the twin ring-tailed lemurs as they are still small despite being just over two months old.

The youngsters were born on August 21 to parents Phoebe and Frank. They are doing well and getting to know their siblings, twin males Nelly and Kelly, big brother Spock and big sister Freya in the mixed lemur exhibit.

Section leader Pat Stevens said: "Even though they were born two months ago the pair are still very small and the names Itzy and Bitzy seemed to suit them."

Upper primates senior keeper, Sophie Dugmore, said: "The new twins are doing really well and Phoebe is a very good mother. This is her seventh litter and she is very experienced and calm with the youngsters."

The animals live in groups of up to 30 individuals in which the females are dominant; a trait common among lemurs.

To keep warm and reaffirm social bonds, groups will huddle together forming a lemur ball.

Teenager loses his bid to cut sentence

A TEENAGER who hit a man over the head with a bat causing 'catastrophic and life-changing' injuries has failed to get his 18-month sentence overturned.

The 17-year-old, from Dudley, who cannot be named, was given a detention and training order at Wolverhampton Crown Court on June 19 this year.

By Lee Watton

ory, is unable to work and requires round-the-clock care, the appeal court was told. He also has weakness to the right side of his body and suffered permanent disfigurement.

The teenager, who is 6ft 2ins tall and weighed 16 stone at the time, said he had 'no recollection' of hitting Mr Mahmood and said it must have been an accident. Mr Mahmood was attacked outside his home in Dudley after going to help his 19-year-old stepson Ajmal Choudhary, who was fighting with several people.

Mr Siddle argued the sentence was too severe because of a lack of pre-meditation, his client's age and previous good character. Lady Justice Sharp said: "We are satisfied with the conviction is safe."

He needed surgery to remove a large part of his skull and lost the sight in one eye. Mr Mahmood now has problems with his mem-

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West Mids Federation

THE West Midlands Federation of Townswomen held their annual Harvest Lunch in the Wollaston Room at Stourbridge Town Hall on October 7.

The event was attended by 90-plus members. Chairman Margaret Tew gave a warm welcome to everyone. Margaret then said Grace. This was followed by a two-course meal prepared and served by the Federation committee. Thanks were given to Margaret Baché who also lent a helping hand on the day.

Following the lunch the chairman introduced the entertainer for the afternoon, Beryl Briscoe. She is also known as the Black Country nightingale.

Beryl is a very talented singer who sang a wide variety of songs starting from the war years through to the 60s and 70s and finishing with a little bit of opera. She added a bit of humour with a few jokes which had everyone laughing.

She very kindly stepped in at the final hour when the original entertainer could not make the day. The chairman gave a vote of thanks to Beryl on members' behalf. Thanks were given to the committee for a very enjoyable afternoon. Everyone had thoroughly enjoyed the meal and the entertainment.

The next event being organised by the Federation will be the carol service at St Thomas's Church, Market Street, Stourbridge on December 12 at 2.15pm. Hot drinks and mince pies will follow in the church hall.

Members planning trip to Hagley Hall

Wollaston 'E' TWG

CHAIRMAN Jean Latham presided over the October meeting, welcoming 43 members and three visitors. Apologies followed, after which the secretary read the minutes of the last meeting which were duly passed and signed. The treasurer then gave a favourable report on financial affairs.

It was announced that a thank you card had been received from Macmillan Nurses for the donation made from the guild's summer tea party.

Sub-section reports followed. It was related that the bowling match with the Sons of Rest had been a great success, enjoyed by all, and had finished the season off very well.

A visit is planned for June next year, to the grounds of Hagley Hall, possibly followed by afternoon tea.

The speaker Ian Drury gave a very interesting talk on the life of the Portland Vase. It is thought that the subject originated in Rome in 525AD, and may have been made as a wedding gift. It is now displayed in the British Museum. Members showed their appreciation in the usual way.

It was requested that members wishing to attend the Christmas Party on December 8 pay £5 at the November meeting.

Raffle prizes went to Carol Longmore and Jill Forest, while the competition was won by Ann Turner and Julie Willets.

The next meeting is at 7.30pm on November 10 at St James Church Hall, Wollaston, when Nigel Wiggin will speak on Old Hall stainless steel.

Kingswinford TG

KINGSWINFORD Guild met on October 12 in the community centre in High Street. The advertised speaker was unable to attend, but happily Alan Peace stepped in at very short notice to fill the gap.

He spoke about the barn owl, with many surprising facts to correct the false impressions anyone may have. He also talked about the World Owl Conservation group which is attempting to save many threatened species. He was thanked by Joyce Major.

A name the doll competition was set in motion to help boost the funds of the Wednesday Club which have become somewhat depleted. The doll is a little beauty, knitted by Brenda Greenaway, who was unable to be present. In November the Wednesday Club is an open night to which gentlemen are invited. Chris Smith will speak about some unusual things made in the Black Country.

Kathy Turner was thanked for her delightful flower arrangement which she donated as a raffle prize. Prizes were won by Sue Wilson and Enid Fennell.

Traditions of festive period

Sedgley Local History Society

THE next meeting is on Thursday, November 12 at 7.30pm in St Andrew's Church, Bilston Street.

The speaker will be Mary Bodfish, a favourite with local history groups and chairman of Smethwick Local History Society.

Mary's illustrated talk follows the traditions and customs of the festive season through the ages. Along the way there are

Pagan festivals, Roman ceremonies, the Native, Tudor feasting, Victorian embellishments and much more.

As usual visitors are invited, admission is £1. Annual membership costs £5 and gives free access to the programme of talks.

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Rowers close in on target ahead of oar-some task

A PAIR of intrepid rowers are edging closer to their fundraising target before they set off on a gruelling trip across the Atlantic Ocean.

The team needs to generate another £14,500 to reach the £85,000 total and compete in what is known as 'The World's Toughest Race'.

The SquareOneAtlantic team is made up of biology teacher Lee Felton, aged 30 from Dudley, and software engineer Sean Lannon, 31 from Newcastle. Over the past 12 months the dynamic duo, along with former member, Tom Hodgson, 41 from Walsall, have been collecting donations and sponsorship.

They will be crossing the Atlantic Ocean from La Gomera, in the Canary Islands, to Antigua, raising awareness for charities Rape Crisis England & Wales and Sport for Freedom. They will set out to row

'Injustice' claim by leaders in mosque row

MUSLIM leaders say they have a 'sense of injustice' over their plans to build a new mosque in Dudley.

As the battle returned to court, top judges heard leaders blame council officials for the delays over the building.

Dudley Muslim Association (DMA) and Dudley Council took their dispute to Court of Appeal in London. The association is fighting to stop the council seizing back land in Hall Street which it had earmarked for a new mosque.

The DMA suffered a blow last year when the High Court blocked an appeal against an earlier ruling. A judge had stuck out the DMA's defence against council plans to reclaim ownership of the site.

At the latest hearing, the DMA was asking the appeal court judges to overturn the High Court judgement.

Deadline

Their lawyers claim they have been the victims of an 'abuse of power' by the council.

The case centres on a lease granted by the council to the DMA for development of the land in 2003.

But work was unable to get under way after 'delays' in obtaining planning permission before a deadline set by the council.

It is believed judges will reserve judgement to a later date.

DMA leaders had tried to avert the court hearing by making a £325,000 out of court settlement to the council.

If the settlement offer had been accepted, the group would have retained ownership and the council would have ended its bid to invoke its buy-back clause. But this was unanimously rejected.

Remand for suspect in robbery attempts

A MAN has been remanded in prison on suspicion of trying to carry out four shop robberies across Dudley in little more than two hours. Unemployed Lee Cartwright, from Brompton Drive, Amblecote, was arrested in Tipton.

It is alleged Cartwright was involved in an armed robbery attempt at Premier Stores in Malvern Avenue, Lye, at 7.25pm on September 27, and failed in another robbery at an off licence in Quarry Bank High Street 30 minutes later.

The 24-year-old is also accused of stealing cigarettes from Kingsway Stores in Kingsway, Wollaston, at 9.25pm before a last unsuccessful raid on a chip shop in Hill Street, Brierley Hill, at 10pm.

He has appeared before Dudley Magistrates Court charged with three attempted robberies, one robbery and one count of possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. He will next appear in Wolverhampton Crown Court on January 26.



Lee Felton and Sean Lannon, with the boat they will be sailing in on their 3,000 mile Atlantic trip

Councillors arrange monthly surgeries

COUNCILLORS in a Dudley borough ward have organised a new monthly surgery. They hope it will benefit people unable to attend current weekend sessions.

Bradley and Wollescote Councillors are running a six-month trial surgery at the Providence Methodist Church in Windmill Hill. They began this week and will run every first Tuesday from 11.30am to 12.30pm until April next year.

It is hoped members of the public who can't get to the existing weekly Friday night and monthly Saturday surgeries will take advantage of the new dates.

Ward Councillor Gaye Partridge said: "People are more often than not asking to meet, sometimes this is because their case is complicated, or because they just want to speak to someone face to face."

"We are also finding that there is a small group of people who for one reason or another struggle when it comes to using phone-based services."

"What ever reason this is a chance to catch up with your councillor and sort out any long standing or difficult issues."



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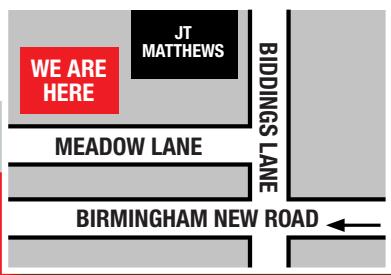
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Keeping those ailments at bay

Winter conditions can be seriously bad for our health, especially for people aged 65 or older and people with long-term conditions.

The cold and damp weather, ice, snow and high winds can all aggravate any existing health problems and make us more vulnerable to illnesses that are more common in winter.

Being cold can raise the risk of increased blood pressure, heart attacks and strokes. But there are lots of things you can do to stay well this winter.

Feeling unwell?

Don't wait – get advice from your nearest pharmacist.

Winter can make existing health problems worse. So if you feel like you're coming down with something, even if it's just a cough or a cold, don't wait until it gets worse. Act quickly. Pharmacists are fully qualified to advise you on the best course of action.

Is your medicine cabinet ready for the winter?

Most common winter ailments, such as a cold, sore throat, cough, sinusitis or middle ear infection, can't be treated with antibiotics. The best thing to do is:

- Rest
- Drink plenty of fluids
- Have at least one hot meal a day to keep your energy levels up
- Talk to your pharmacist for advice on getting any pain relief you need such as paracetamol or ibuprofen.

Take medicines as directed

If you've been prescribed antibiotics or any other medication, make sure you take them as directed.

Make sure you get your flu jab

The flu virus strikes in winter and it can be far more serious than you think. That's why the flu jab is free if you're aged 65 or over. Just speak to your GP.

A MAJOR drive to help people stay well this winter has been launched by Public Health England and NHS England.

The NHS Stay Well This Winter campaign is urging people aged 65 or over, or those with long-term health conditions, such as diabetes, stroke, heart disease or respiratory illness, to prepare for winter with advice on how to ward off common illnesses.

The campaign is asking the public to:

- If you start to feel unwell, even if it's just a cough or a cold, then get help from your pharmacist quickly before it gets more serious.
- Make sure you get your flu jab if eligible.
- Keep yourself warm – heat your home to at least 18C or (65F) if you can.
- Make sure you get your prescription medicines before pharmacies close on Christmas Eve.
- Always take your prescribed medicines as directed.

The Stay Well This Winter campaign will make sure that people have the information they need to help them look after themselves this winter and also to know the



Pharmacists are fully qualified to advise you on the best treatment



The campaign is urging people to prepare for winter

best place to go for urgent advice, whether that's their local pharmacy, NHS Choices, NHS phone number 111 or accident and emergency.

As in previous years the flu vaccine programme is an important part of this campaign.

The adult flu vaccine will be offered free to those in groups at

particular risk of infection and complications from flu including those age 65 or over, those age under 65 with long-term health conditions, pregnant women and carers.

Vaccination

This year, for the first time, all our youngest primary school children will be eligible to receive the free

nasal spray vaccine, making this the largest school-based vaccination programme in England involving children in 17,000 schools.

The children's flu vaccine

programme will seek to help more than three million two to six year olds, as the programme is extended to children in school Years 1 and 2.

NHS

Are you 65 or over?

If you feel like you're getting a cough or a cold, get advice from your pharmacist before it gets more serious.

**STAY WELL
THIS WINTER**

nhs.uk/staywell



Sanjay Ganvir, Pharmacist

Business is united on same site

A BLACK Country family business is bringing all its operations, which support the UK construction industry, to one site in Kingswinford.

The Elta Group has seen significant growth and development since it started in 1996.

The £100 million group operates in seven countries across four continents and the new investment will see the group re-structured to support its growth.

The newly formed Elta Group Building Services unites existing brands Elta Fans, which has its building services and residential divisions at the Pensnett Trading Estate, Kingswinford, bringing Air Design and idealair group at Netherton and Hydor Building Services under one umbrella at the same site.

Each will retain its own distinctive brand identity.

Group chairman David Ball said: "Our activities worldwide have continued to achieve organic growth in the group's principle markets, despite the worst recession in living history."

Get to grips with an iPad

A FREE iPad taster session helping people to get to grips with some of the basics will take place in Kingswinford this month.

The session will be at Kingswinford Library on Thursday, November 19, from 2pm to 4pm. Call (01384) 818162 to book.

FOCUS ON KINGSWINFORD AND WALL HEATH

Hundreds motor in to open day at car manufacturer

MORE than 250 car enthusiasts visited a Black Country manufacturer as it opened its factory doors for the day.

Westfield Sportscars, based in Gibbons Industrial Park, in Dudley Road, Kingswinford, gave petrol heads the chance to view 20 of the factory's finest assembled cars.

The firm was celebrating after winning a £1 million contract in China to gain foothold in the huge Asian market.

Special offers on kits and parts were also on display at the open day took place from 9am to 3pm on October 24. The company has been trading since 1983 and has sold more than 12,000 cars worldwide. They produce more than 400 cars a year.

Simon Westwood, sales and marketing manager, said: "We are pretty much an open factory anyway so the event which we run twice a year always attracts a lot of people who are really into their cars."

Display

"It went really well, despite the weather not being as good as we hoped, we still had a good amount of visitors with some of the hardened enthusiasts turning out. At our open days we display cars ranging from the ones we need to build to the ones that are ready to go out."

"We have lots of people arrive in their own Westfield cars too. This year we were working with staff to make a carbon chassis and a lightweight rotary engine, which were also on display."



Managing director Julian Turne during an open day at Westfield Sportscars Ltd, Kingswinford



Looking at wankel engines is Advanced Innovative Engineering managing director Nathan Bailey

Parade in village to remember

WALL Heath Scout group have helped organise the Remembrance Day parade and service in Wall Heath on Sunday.

The parade leaves the Royal British Legion headquarters in Enville Road at 10.30am and takes a route to the Church of the Ascension via Enville Road. The service starts at 10.45am.

All sections of the group will attend including beavers, cubs, scouts and the brownies and guides.

Organiser Tom Bunce said: "Ex-servicemen and police lead the parade."

"The service is an outdoor one regardless of the weather with all around the cenotaph and two village church ministers officiating."

"From the church the parade returns to our headquarters for thanks, dismissal and soup. Everyone is invited to either parade or attend the ceremony."

Micropub bid turned down

A PLAN to turn a shop into a micropub in Kingswinford has been turned down by Dudley planners.

Stourbridge's Pig Iron Brewery had applied for a change of use for a retail unit in the Charterfield Shopping Centre. Proposed opening hours were from noon to 10.45pm Monday to Saturday, 2pm to 10pm Sundays and Bank Holidays. Councillors rejected the plan due to "highway safety concerns" and a "loss of residential amenity".

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Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS (Eng) with dentist Dr Polly Mineva, and right, technicians working on suction technology dentures

DENTAL technician Steve Morris carefully crafts a denture, ensuring that a small aperture on the side of the prosthetic will be able to accommodate a tiny valve.

The denture looks like any other, but the clever diaphragm development to help hold it secure can give it the edge over its traditional counterparts.

"It's clever stuff," says Steve (GDC 142474), "a small diaphragm seals off a one-way valve under bite pressure, creating a vacuum between the denture and gums. The result is a better fit to the soft tissues and improved resistance to any dislodging forces created by eating and speaking."

Steak for dinner

For the right person, the Ultra Suction Solution can remedy common denture stability problems without surgery and messy fixatives.

"We recently manufactured a second pre-scription for a patient. We knew the fit was as perfect as it could possibly be, but I was amazed when they called the lab to tell us they'd been on their initial 'test run' with a steak for dinner."

"The patient was very happy with the outcome," adds Steve.

The Suction Solution option attracts the



Suction solution

biggest number of inquiries at the Denture Clinic in North Street, Dudley.

Principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC 108353, who heads the team at his multi-disciplined practice says: "We have always endeavoured to be on the very cusp of clinical development and this device is another useful option in our commitment to try to deliver results greater than patient expectations."

Historically, lower dentures can present stability problems as the jawbone erodes with age. With traditional dentures this can cause lower teeth to move and result in painful friction problems on gums.

The suction device can be mounted in upper or lower dentures and due to its efficiency the size of the acrylic 'plate' can sometimes be reduced, improving speech and taste.

Could this be the answer for you?

"I need to stress, however, the option is not suitable for all, but a single, free initial consultation would determine whether it could be the way forward. We never sell solutions here, but provide honest, comprehensive, clinical appraisals that help patients make informed choices," says Steven.

To achieve an harmonious fit, Denture Clinic prescriptions are 'set' using a Biofunctional Prosthetics System (BPS) which helps accurately replicate natural teeth anatomy during the production process.

"The fit is stunningly accurate," he adds.

Typically, denture patients will be assigned more than three-and-a-half hours of surgery time in achieving the best possible outcome.

Scanner

The Denture Clinic operates hand-in-glove with Steven's North Street Dental & Implant Clinic operation.

"Having everything under one roof – denture provision, general dentistry and dental implant provision – gives us a huge set of solutions and a deep pool of clinical skill from which we can draw."

"With a 3-D scanner, modern and air conditioned surgeries and a creative team, I believe we are strongly placed to tackle most problems," says Steven.

Steven, whose clinics attracts patients from as far as Portugal, Spain, the Isle of Skye and the Isle of Anglesey, adds: "Implant dentistry is the ultimate, long-term solution for denture stability problems, but it is not suitable for everyone, neither is it all patients' first preference."

"The beauty of the suction technology is that it has the potential to deliver in the right patient excellent retainer qualities without the complex clinical procedures required for implant work."

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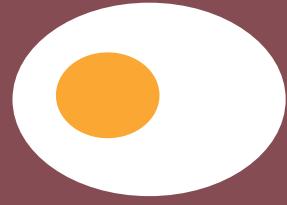
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Two are hurt in blackspot crash

TWO people were taken to hospital after a crash at a notorious junction on Birmingham New Road.

Two cars were involved in the accident at 7am on Friday on the Wolverhampton-bound carriageway at its junction with Shaw Road near Coseley. Both vehicles were severely damaged and long delays built up as the road was closed by police.

Claire Brown, spokeswoman for West Midlands Ambulance Service, said two people had been taken to New Cross Hospital, a man in his 20s with minor head injuries and a woman who had abdominal pain caused by seatbelt injuries.

Councillor Malcolm Gwinnett, of Spring Vale ward, said the latest accident shows the junction at Shaw Road and Birmingham New Road needs an urgent overhaul.

Black Country is hit hard as Caparo sheds 323 jobs

A TOTAL of 323 workers have lost their jobs after steel giant Caparo shut down three Black Country plants.

Staff at five sites in Darlaston, Oldbury, Dudley, West Bromwich and Cradley Heath were called into meetings with administrators last week to be informed they were being laid off with immediate effect.

Administrators from PwC confirmed that 323 jobs have gone across the five plants, leaving workers devastated.

Many of those who have lost their jobs had been with the firm for decades.

Caparo Atlas Fastenings in Heath Road, Darlaston was worst hit with 122 workers made redundant.

A total of 68 jobs have gone at Caparo Precision Tubes in Oldbury, as well as 64 at Caparo Forging Europe in Dudley, 59 at Fairbright Wire in West Bromwich and 10 at the Cradley Heath CMT Engineering plant.

The Darlaston, Dudley and West Bromwich sites were closed with immediate effect.

The business, which was the biggest manufac-

turing company in the Black Country with 1,700 workers across 20 sites, was put into administration earlier this month.

Plants in Hartlepool and Tredgar have also closed as part of a total of 452 redundancies.

Matt Hammond, PwC partner and lead administrator said: "It is with regret that we have made these decisions, but the commercial prospects of the affected businesses render them unviable."

He added that more than 1,200 staff remain employed in Caparo Industries. "They continue to work and be paid as normal," he said.

Flat windows are blown out

TWO people went to hospital after a fire in a first-floor flat in Brierley Hill.

Fire crews were called to the three-storey converted house in Stourbridge Road, Holly Hall, at around 8pm on Thursday.

Residents heard a loud bang as the windows of the flat blew out by the force of the blaze.

Three people at the flat had managed to get outside by the time paramedics arrived.

Two people made their own way to Russells Hall Hospital to have a check-up after the efforts of smoke inhalation but the other person did not require further treatment.

Crews from Brierley Hill, Haden Cross, Dudley and Oldbury, went to the scene.

Magnificent send-off for fan



Jim Morris and Dave Parsons rode the horse-drawn hearse to the funeral

THERE was a Wild West send off for a cowboy enthusiast who had his coffin carried through town in a horse-drawn carriage during his funeral procession.

Michael Whittaker, a former canal lock keeper and an avid collector of Wild West memorabilia, died from a heart attack aged 76 at his home in Brierley Hill last month.

More than 200 people turned out for his funeral in Brierley Hill on Thursday, many having donned Western outfits to give him a fitting farewell. Staff from the funeral director's also dressed as cowboys as they rode the horse-drawn carriage.

Michael's coffin was carried in to the theme music from The Magnificent Seven and tributes included a floral wreath in the shape of a saddle. The enthusiast's favourite cowboy hat was placed on his coffin.

Some of his vast collection of memorabilia

was placed around the altar at St Michael's Church in Bell Street South.

Michael's brother Tony, aged 71, said the funeral had been a fantastic send-off for his older brother.

He said: "It was fantastic. As the horses came through Brierley Hill they behaved absolutely perfectly. Then we had the theme tune from The Magnificent Seven playing as the coffin was taken into the church.

"A lot of Mike's memorabilia had been prepared at the front of the church and the coffin was pushed into the memorabilia — that was beautiful. It was definitely a funeral with a difference."

Michael and Tony's cousin Ron Didlock, 68, said the funeral summed up Michael's personality. "He had a wicked sense of humour," said retired bus driver Ron.



Michael Whittaker's cowboy hat upon his coffin during the service at Brierley Hill

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North Street, which could be accessed by an alley from Paternoster Row



Red Lion Street where the Perry family lived



Tony Perry as a young boy playing with his friends in Red Lion Street

All the world's a stage – or at least the back garden at No3!

I WAS about four when we moved house to Red Lion Street. In the 1950s this was longer than now. Where the 1960s Telephone Exchange extension stands there was a block of houses, Nos 1 to 4, let to council tenants.

Another block of four, fronted on to an alley, with a cemetery for St Peter and St Paul's Catholic Church and a pair of semi-detached houses.

The alley led, as Paternoster Row, up the hill, to North Street. Past the cemetery was a final block of four houses before the junction with Wadham's Hill, where the Ring Road is now at a lower level. The houses were built in 1926, as shown by date plaques with the Wolverhampton Corporation Coat of Arms.

Our house was No 2, and a high privet hedge above a low brick wall hid a small front garden with tulips, daffodils and nasturtiums. At the end of the tunnel entry you reached the backs of numbers 2 and 3, where the gardens were at a higher level, reached by steps. My

MEMORY LANE

By Tony Perry

best friend in these years was Geoffrey Leo. Although he lived at Wednesfield, his grandparents, Mr & Mrs Wythe, resided at No 3, and his mother or father would bring him to Red Lion Street regularly.

The family's business was making and selling ice cream. Other friends of ours in the street were John Hendley at No 5, Sally Eades at No 6, replaced by a younger Sally Ormerod, Paul Makin at No 7, Lesley at

No 10, Jane at No 12, Patrick Greatrix at No 13 (my next best friend after Geoff), and later on Jimmy and David Silcock at No 14.

John, a lifelong Wolves expert and supporter, was to become in later years a folk singer and successful co-ordinator of folk clubs in the area.

Paul was an actor, before becoming a successful script-writer of television comedies. He sadly died of a brain tumour at the age of 54. Patrick ran a popular hardware

business in Wolverhampton. In the 1950s playing in the street was second nature, and we had the imagination to make up different games, dramas and shows, mimicking the stars seen on television or in films.

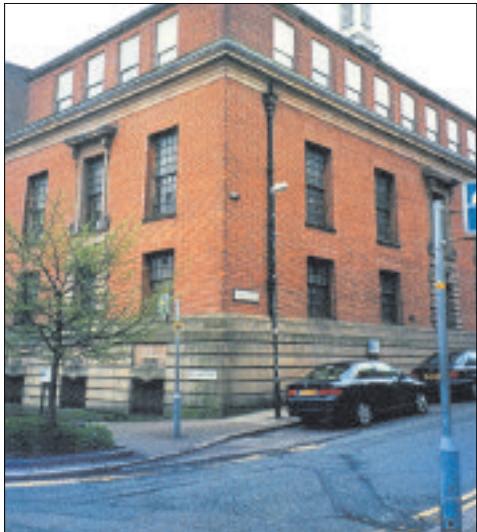
The raised back garden of No 3 might be a stage, with Geoff's younger brother John using the inside part of a punch-ball as a microphone, belting out Frank Ifield's "I Remember You".

Fever

Play would often take place in the alley, and occasionally stray over the wall into the Catholic Cemetery.

However, any parents hearing us would order us out, with the dire threat that we would "catch the fever" in there. No one ever explained what fever, and how it could be caught. It was another world – a wilderness of overgrown trees and bushes hiding old gravestones – certainly a good place for adventure.

• From *Of the River People* by Anthony Perry (Brewin Books, £9.95), available at Ashwoods, Tettenhall Post Office, Archives at Molineux House, Mogul Diamonds, St Peter's Church and other bookshops.



Red Lion Street in recent times at its corner with Mitre Fold

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Work starts on £5m care home scheme

BUILDING work has started on a 66-bed care home that will create 50 jobs. The new home in Kent Road, Halesowen, is due for completion in September next year.

The £5 million three-storey facility is being provided by Black Country Housing Group and built by LNT Carehome Developments.

It will provide high-quality residential care as well as up to 32 beds and specialist care facilities designed for people with dementia.

The 30,580 sq ft property in Kent Road will include en-suite bedrooms for people aged over 55. The scheme will comprise six two-bedroom, semi-detached independent living

bungalows. The opening of new facility in 2016 will also create 50 jobs.

Deputy Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Mohammed Hanif, attended a sod-cutting ceremony along with Christine Cooper, managing director of LNT Carehome Developments.

Janette Beckett, director of care and social business at Black Country Housing Group, said: "Our investment in this new residential care home represents BCHG's commitment to build on our existing care offer to help enhance the quality of life for local people living in care."

Mrs Cooper said: "We are really excited to be working with BCHG on this project."



BCHG chairman Peter Bilson, Deputy Mayor Mohammed Hanif and the BCHG and LNT teams

Support for pubs revealed in survey

A SURVEY carried out by Dudley North MP Ian Austin has shown massive support for local pubs and breweries.

Three-quarters of the people polled said they had attended or hosted an event at a local pub, and nine out of 10 supported Mr Austin's campaign for the community value of pubs to be properly considered in planning decisions.

However, 95 per cent said owners should take more responsibility for anti-social behaviour.

Mr Austin is pushing to reduce the price of a pint through a cut in beer duty.

He said: "Dudley has a thriving pubs and brewing industry, and I'm delighted to see that local people are getting behind it."

"I'll be using this survey to support my campaign for measures such as further cuts in beer duty to keep the price of a pint down, keep pubs open and protect jobs."

Motorbiker died after crash with a minibus

A MOTORCYCLIST from the Black Country died in a crash with a minibus after buying a bike against his wife's wishes, an inquest heard.

Nigel Christopher Thompson died of multiple injuries after the smash on the A489 between Kerry on August 2.

The 49-year-old from Quarry Bank, who had been a keen motorcyclist in his youth, gave up biking while his children were young and only bought the Kawasaki Z100 in March.

His wife Nicola told an inquest at Brecon Court via a statement, that she had not been happy about him getting a new bike and even said to him she would become 'a biker widow'.

But she said it made him happy, she remembered seeing his face when he bought it and his daughters bought him the biking leathers.

Stephen Evans was driving a Dial-a-Ride minibus and was accompanied by Carol Clayton and Ross Embrey on a trip to a fun day at Churchstoke, when the accident happened.

Braked

He said as he approached a right hand bend near Penygelly Mill he saw a motorcyclist travelling towards him on his side of the road.

He said it looked as though the bike was out of control as it was upright and it was weaving from side to side and wobbling around.

Mr Evans said there was another motorcyclist travelling behind on the correct side of the road.

He said he turned the steering wheel and braked hard but he said he knew there was going to be a crash.

"The last time I recall seeing the motorcyclist he was raising his hand," he said.

"I do not know why the hand was raised, I do not know if he was apologising because he knew what was going to happen," said Mr Evans. After the crash

Dyfed Powys Police collision investigator Constable Garry Rees said there were no defects on the road or with either vehicle that may have caused the collision.

Powys coroner Andrew Barkley said Mr Evans could not have done anything else.

He said the cause of the death seemed to have been driver error.

War and weapons talk

THE Great War will be in the spotlight at the next meeting of Amblecote History Society.

David Dunham will be giving a talk titled Great War Small Arms and Weapons.

It will look at the array of weapons available for use by soldiers on both sides during the First World War.

The talk will take place on Wednesday, November 11, at 7.30pm in The Lehr Theatre at the Ruskin Glass Centre.

There is a £2 admission fee for non-members. See www.

amblecoteshistorysociety.org.uk website.

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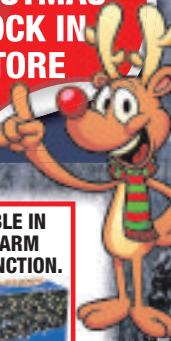
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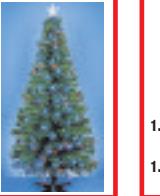
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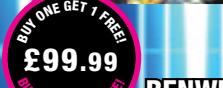


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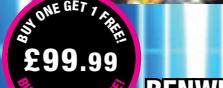
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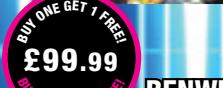
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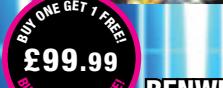
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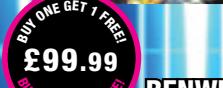
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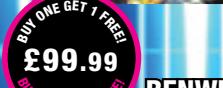
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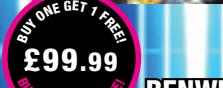
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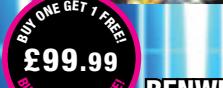
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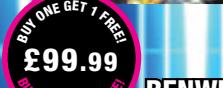
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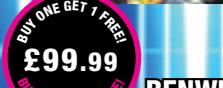
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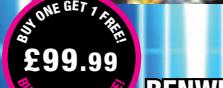
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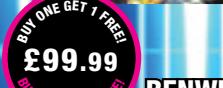
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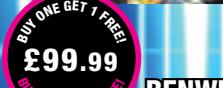
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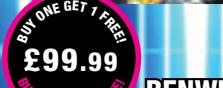
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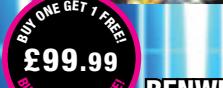
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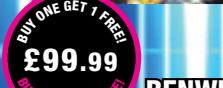
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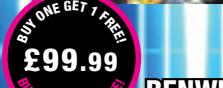
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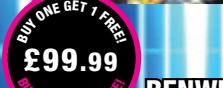
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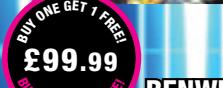
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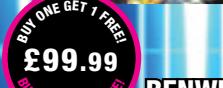
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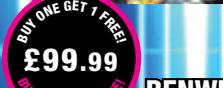
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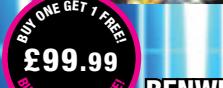
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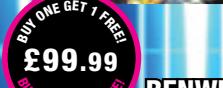
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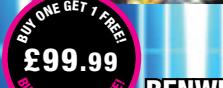
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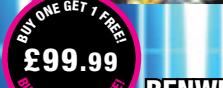
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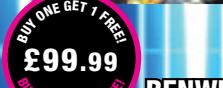
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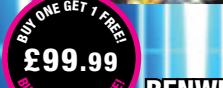
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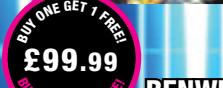
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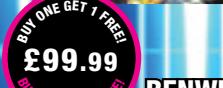
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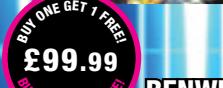
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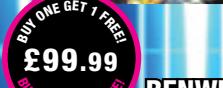
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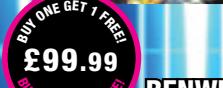
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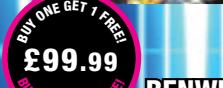
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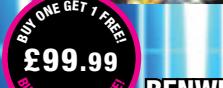
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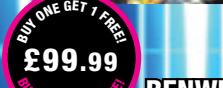
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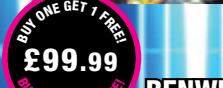
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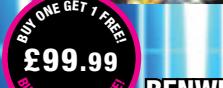
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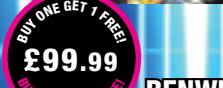
BROTHERS KNIGHTS QUEST



BROTHERS HERCULES

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BROTHERS HERCULES

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Mr Hand with one of the pears, which he hopes will take off again



Paul Hand at his home in Lentwardine who is helping to re-introduce the Tettenhall Dick Pear



An illustration of the once highly-popular fruit

Hand reared for pear's return

BRITAIN'S rarest pear – the Tettenhall Dick – is making a comeback from the brink of extinction.

"They look stunning and taste fantastic," says Paul Hand who has spearheaded a major replanting of 1,000 Tettenhall Dick trees around the Black Country.

He adds: "We have planted a large number and have succeeded in keeping the Tettenhall Dick pear as part of the Black Country landscape."

Tettenhall Dick trees were found in abundance along the streets and in back gardens of the Black Country.

But after the Second World War their popularity plummeted with trees torn down for redevelopment and a culture shift away from people growing their own food.

Mr Hand has fond memories of scrumping the pears in his childhood.

"At the turn of the millennium I decided to get off my backside and do something," he said. "I felt it was important. I went to Regis School in Tettenhall and I remember seeing a JCB ripping up the trees I used to scrump and the image stayed with me ever since then."

From his home in Leintwardine, Shropshire, he is making Tettenhall Dick wine and next year hopes to produce Tettenhall Dick Perry – a firm Black Country favourite from bygone times.

He said: "They are part of Black Country history. As a schoolboy in Castlecroft I would scrump them. Because you would bite into them before they were ripe they were hard, hence the saying 'Tettenhall Dick, hard as brick'."

"They didn't have a very long shelf life and were not fantastically juicy."

"It is a variety of pear that is more than 500 years old and from the pre-industrial Midlands."

"It spread far and wide with people telling me they had them in Cannock and as far away as Lichfield.

They were in everyone's gardens.

"My mother would never bottle them, so recently I thought I would try it and they tasted superb – just the sort of thing you would eat at a posh restaurant."

"They are real gourmet quality. They are absolutely fabulous. I find if you cook them for a few minutes and then put them in the freezer to preserve them it has the same effect and it is not as fiddly."

He has planted a Tettenhall Dick tree in Bantock Park in memory of his mother and 60 in Baggeridge Country Park.

A further 50 are in a fruit farm which he hopes will start selling them. Hundreds of others have been planted at schools and homes.

To re-introduce the pear trees he had to combine young wood samples from a Tettenhall Dick tree with rootstock – a process known as grafting.

He collected samples from Regis Road in

Tettenhall and The Straits in Gornal. He said: "You slice and bind it. The trees don't grow from seeds. You have to join the wood with the roots and it will combine and grow."

"It is just like how Bramley Apples are made and all come from the original trees. So the Tettenhall Dick we grow today can be traced back to the time of just after the Norman Conquests."

Mr Hand runs a charity Bees & Trees that specialises in rare fruit. As well as lecturing he also trains people on plant grafting.

He is planning to hold a Tettenhall Dick party next year around September when they will be ripe to pick from the trees.

He said many people would make Perry and wine from the pear but after the Second World War the fell in popularity.

Indeed he is making his own wine and next year plans to produce Tettenhall Dick Perry.

"Fruit and tastes moved on and they fell in popularity," he said.

"It is my opinion that they originated in the Manor of Perton. The Manor of Perton disappeared and the pear got called Tettenhall Dick being the next place along."

Many people believe Perton's name derived from the fruit, 'Pear-town'.

"Pears have been in the doldrums for a long time," he said. "But I expect they will make a comeback. Joan Morgan who wrote the Book of Apples which has become the Bible of apples has just published the Book of Pears."

"The Tettenhall Dick is included and I expect that will help. People are now interested in food and I am sure this will help the Tettenhall Dick pear become trendy."

Mr Hand is now trying to get individuals to buy their own Tettenhall Dick tree so they can grow their own.

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Folk star Ange

Interview – Page 25



**Snakecharmer
rock on – Page 25**

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Call 0121 753 1818

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Wed at 7pm, £16
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Samantha Fish

Wed at 8.30pm - 10.50pm, £13.50 - £15
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Kadavar

Wed at 7pm, £12.50
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

Antarctic Monkeys: Arctic Monkeys Tribute

Sat at 7pm - 11pm, £11
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

We Are The Ocean

Mon at 8pm, £12
Asylum, Hockley, Birmingham, B19 3LS. Call 0121 233 1109

Dirty DC: AC/DC Tribute

Sat at 10am, £10
The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN. Call 01384 397177

Jah Wobble's Invaders Of The Heart

Thurs at 7.30pm, £16 - £18
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Secret Affair

Sat at 6.30pm - 10pm, £20
The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY. Call 0121 643 0428

The Proclaimers

Sun at 7.30pm, £29.50
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS. Call 0844 871 3011

Titus Andronicus

Tue at 8pm, £12
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ. Call 0844 870 0000

Nell Bryden

Tue at 7pm - 11pm, £14.50
The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY. Call 0121 643 0428

LA Priest

Wed at 8pm, £9
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ. Call 0844 870 0000

The Coronas

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ABC



Monday, 7pm

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Jim Davidson

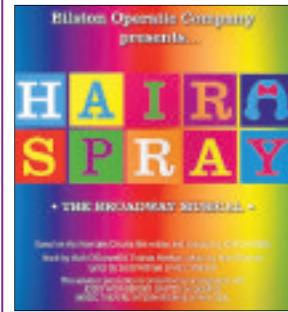


Sun, Tue, Thu

Stafford, B'ham, Lichfield

He's like Marmite - you either love him or hate him. Davidson will appear at Stafford Gatehouse, the New Alex, B'ham and Lichfield Garrick over the next week. Adults only. Visit [theatre websites](#)

Hairspray



Tues - Nov 14

Grand Theatre, W'ton

This fantastic fun show is based on the 1988 John Waters film Hairspray and the songs include 1960s style dance music and downtown rhythm and blues. Visit www.grandtheatre.co.uk

Lord Of The Flies

Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2pm, 7.30pm, £8.50 - £35
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

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Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

Brave New World

Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, £10.50 - £25.50
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

Jesus Christ Superstar

Fri at 7.30pm - 10pm, Sat at 2pm - 5pm, 7.30pm - 10pm, £20 - £42.50
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

COMEDY

Kevin Bridges: A Whole Different Story

Fri at 8pm, £28.80
Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, B1 2AA. Call 0121 780 4141

Nina Conti: In Your Face

Wed at 8pm, £18.50
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

Harry Enfield & Paul Whitehouse: Legends!

Sat at 7.30pm, £32.50 - £41.25
Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, B1 2AA. Call 0121 780 4141

Stephen K Amos: The Laughter Master

Wed at 7.30pm, Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR. Call 01543 412121

Jim Davidson: Charlton NII

Sun at 7.30pm, £23.50 - £26.40
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Tues at 7.30pm, £23.50 - £26.40

New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS. Call 0844 871 3011

Thu at 7.30pm, £23.50 - £26.40

Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR. Call 01543 412121

Festival Of The Spoken Nerd: Just For Graphs

Thu at 8pm, £13 - £15
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Jimmy Carr: Funny Business

Fri at 8pm, £25
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

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Hare & Hounds, Birmingham, B14 7JZ. Call 0844 870 0000

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Kent DuChaine

Fri at 9pm, Free
The Jam House, Birmingham, B3 1QU. Call 0121 200 3030

The Swing Commanders

Sat at 8pm,
Atrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ. Call 01527 577330

Goggie Ifill And Bethan Jones

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Stourport-On-Severn Brass Band

Fri at 7.30pm,
The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster, DY10 2RX. Call 01562 743745

Nathaniel Vallois And David Quigley

Fri at 1.10pm, Free
Barber Institute of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham, B15 2TS. Call 0121 414 7333

Brummegem Pals

Sat at 7.30pm,
Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

'Allo 'Allo

Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 7.30pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Coleridge trail left Ange in Esteeseee

By Danny Farragher

WE'RE all guilty of missing the history on our doorstep.

Often other people point out what's interesting or historic about what we pass by every day. This happened to folk singer Ange Hardy in a spectacular way.

What is remarkable is not just that she was unaware of one of world's most famous romantic poets, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, literally being under her nose but also the way she addressed the shortfall in her knowledge.

Hardy lives in a little village just outside Watchet, Somerset which is about half way along The Coleridge Way, a trail the poet famed for such epics as The Rime of the Ancient Mariner and Kubla Khan walked. She however was blissfully unaware of the significance of the route.

"I think having left school really early and my past of running away and being out of the education circles from about 13 onwards I was just never in the right place or with the right people to learn about Coleridge.

"I didn't even realise Coleridge was he, I thought it was just the name of the walk. So I really had no idea at all."

The idea then of basing her new album Esteeseee – which is how the poet liked to sign himself, on him and his works seem even more bizarre.

"My husband came up with the idea. He started talking about Coleridge and said I should write a song about him."

The idea then formed into an entire album in Hardy's mind, "It was



Ange Hardy will be performing her new album in Birmingham

a huge risk," she admits. What lay ahead for the acclaimed singer-songwriter was a massive cramming session.

"I spent about two weeks with my head buried in books from morning to night and listening to readings. Then I just pieced together all the bits that

inspired me." Ange Hardy is performing songs from Esteeseee at the Kitchen Garden Cafe, King's Heath, Birmingham on Monday November 9. The show starts 8pm and tickets are £9 in advance or £11 on the night. Visit www.kitchengardencafe.co.uk and www.angeharry.com

Fireworks promised



"They're the genuine article"

Harry James (Thunder, Magnum), Adam Wakeman, who played keyboards and acoustic guitar for Ozzy Osbourne) and Black Sabbath and Heartland vocalist Chris Ousey.

They perform classic twin-guitar based rock. A spokesman for the band said: "With a live set comprising material from their critically-acclaimed Snakecharmer album, coupled with such Whitesnake classics as Ready And Willing, Fool For Your Loving,

Take Me With You, Walking In The Shadow Of The Blues and Here I Go Again, Snakecharmer is the genuine article."

Snakecharmer are currently writing for the follow up to their self-titled debut album. Tonight's concert is the only chance to see the supergroup locally as they also perform in Sheffield, Glasgow, Newcastle, London and Cardiff during the nine-date tour. Call 0844 477 2000.

Reid all about it as twins top bill

TWIN brothers Craig and Charlie Reid will have Birmingham rocking when they perform at the New Alexandra Theatre this weekend.

The duo have tasted huge success around the globe with the likes of Letter From America, Sunshine on Leith and I'm Gonna Be 500 Miles, enjoying gold and platinum singles and albums in UK, USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand in the process. They perform on Sunday (November 8).

The second city also plays host to 80s legends ABC the following evening at the Symphony Hall.

The Institute hosts Twenty One Pilots on Monday and Nell Bryden the next night.

Funnyman Kevin bridges the gap

IT'S comedy central in Birmingham this week as a number of top acts perform.

Scottish funnyman Kevin Bridges sets the ball rolling with his brand new show, A Whole Different Story, at the Barclaycard Arena tomorrow night (Friday).

Also on at the Barclaycard Arena, on Saturday, will be Harry Enfield and Paul Whitehouse.

Elsewhere in the city, Bridges will vie for top billing with Jimmy Carr tomorrow night as he plays the Symphony Hall.

He will be followed by ventriloquist Nina Conti who is at the Town Hall on November 11.

When comedy and ballet mix

THE boys are back in town... in size 12 pointe shoes. Hurting through the classical ballet repertoire with their imitable blend of skill, grace and wit, Les Ballet Trockadero de Monte carlo perform at Birmingham Hippodrome next week.

Enjoy show-stopping Swan Lake (Act II), Merce Cunningham-inspired Patterns in Space, Go For Barocco, a satire on Balanchine's choreography, and the delightful Don Quixote on Tuesday and Wednesday (November 10 and 11).

For the Tuesday show there is a chance to attend a post-show question and answer session given by troupe members.

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The chicken satay was a favourable way to start the feast



Fine dining – raise a glass to quality Thai food

Chef Suree's a winner as King and Thai retains its number one crown

THAI cook Suree Coates is one of Shropshire's most decorated chefs, having been named the UK Thai Chef of the Year a couple of years back and then bettering that by being crowned the Asian Chef of the Year.

More recently, her qualities have been recognised by The Good Food Guide, where inclusion is hard to come by; in Shropshire, only seven restaurants feature.

The King & Thai in Broseley is listed in that as a Local Gem and deserving of inclusion. Suree is one of the county's best. Arguably her greatest ability is to fashion exciting and exotic flavours that are deep, rich and rewarding.

Her freshly-made sauces and pastes are heavenly. She learned how to make them while growing up in her native Thailand,

By Andy Richardson

where she used a pestle and mortar to combine freshly-picked herbs and aromatics. She uses the same techniques to this day – and it shows. Suree offers dishes that offer the same flavours that you'd find in downtown Phitsanulok. Her flavours are vibrant and subtle; explosive and entertaining. She's a crackerjack cook who has as good an understanding of Asian seasonings as any chef in the county.

My friend and I have eaten at The King & Thai frequently. For this critic's shilling, it remains the county's number one; with Ludlow's Chang Thai Bar, and Shrewsbury's recently-opened Aroi Thai not far behind. Suree moves ahead of her good-but-not-better rivals on most fronts: principally presentation, innovation and flavour.

When we arrived, the helpful and bubbly

waitress showed us through to the dining room. It was festooned with Buddhas, colourful photographs and other Thai ephemera. The menu featured the normal Thai classics in addition to numerous specials. Starters include a duck dim sum with plum sauce. Alongside that was a Thai custard, served in a mini pumpkin, with prawns.

My friend opted for the duck dim sum while I ordered chicken satay. Both were delicious. The dim sum – some crunchy-fried and some soft-and-steamed – were light and boldly seasoned. The plum sauce was swirled concentrically across the plate and provided a balanced accompaniment.

The satay was brilliant. My friend and I swapped dim sum for satay in an impromptu game of That mix'n'match.

We thought long and hard about the daily specials before ordering the county's best Thai red curry and the county's best

Thai green curry. Neither disappointed. Both oozed subtle and delicate flavour. The chicken and vegetables that were contained had been lightly cooked while the presentation was as pretty as a picture.

Rather than request dessert, we asked the chef to choose. She provided a tasting platter, including a playful coconut panna cotta, an indulgent chocolatey, fudgey cube that was dense, rich and satisfying and more. The only underwhelming element was a deep-fried ice cream sandwich.

Suree deserves all credit for pushing the envelope when it comes to Thai cuisine. Unlike most local, neighbourhood chefs, she creates imaginative dishes, daring to combine different ingredients to fashion something new.

Her presentation is delightful, her flavours exemplary and there's not a finer Thai restaurant in the region.

*The KOYLA KITCHEN
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AT
THE THORNS*

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CHOICE



Gregory Porter

Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance 2015 (BBC1, 9pm)

Huw Edwards presents coverage of the annual event from the Royal Albert Hall in the presence of the Queen and other members of the royal family. Rod Stewart, Pixie Lott, Andrea Bocelli and Gregory Porter perform alongside the Central Band of the Royal Air Force, the Queen's Colour Squadron, the Band of HM Royal Marines and the Band and Pipes of the Brigade of Gurkhas. Together they pay tribute to the victims of conflict, from the First World War to the present day, in a festival that also includes the traditional two-minute silence as thousands of poppy petals fall from the venue's ceiling.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00 Saturday Kitchen** Live. 11.30 Simply Nigella. (R) 12.00 BBC News: Weather. **12.10 Football Focus.** 1.00 Bargain Hunt. (R) 2.00 Rugby League. England v New Zealand (kick-off 2.30pm) 4.30 Final Score. 5.20 BBC News. 5.40 Regional Programme. 5.40 Politics: Celebrities.

6.30 Strictly Come Dancing. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present another round of dancing action as the twinkle-toed celebrities compete to stay out of the bottom two – and hopefully avoid the same fate as last week's eliminated couple.

8.00 Doctor Who. In the second part of the adventure which started last week, the Zygons have taken over, and the future of Earth is sealed in a box back in Unit's archive. But with the military organisation under the shape-shifting aliens' control and Clara missing, the Doctor and Osgood find themselves fugitives in a city where no one can be trusted. But even if the Time Lord can stop a war, can he also save his friends? Peter Capaldi stars as the time-travelling Doctor, with Jenna Coleman as his trusty sidekick and Ingrid Oliver as Unit advisor Osgood, seemingly back from the dead.

8.50 The National Lottery Live. Gaby Roslin is on hand to provide news of the all-important winning numbers.

9.00 Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance 2015. Huw Edwards presents coverage of the annual event from the Royal Albert Hall in the presence of the Queen and other members of the royal family. Rod Stewart, Pixie Lott, Andrea Bocelli and Gregory Porter perform alongside the Central Band of the Royal Air Force, the Queen's Colour Squadron, the Band of HM Royal Marines and the Band and Pipes of the Brigade of Gurkhas. Together they pay tribute to the victims of conflict, from the First World War to the present day, in a festival that also includes the traditional two-minute silence as thousands of poppy petals fall from the venue's ceiling.

10.40 BBC News: Weather.

11.00 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents; National Lottery Update.

12.25 The Apprentice. (R) 1.25 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.30 BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 Film: The Moon Is Blue. (1953) 7.55 Film: The Captive Heart. (1946) 9.30 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 10.30 The Wonder of Animals. 11.00 Animal SOS. (R) 11.30 Animal SOS. (R) 12.00 The Moon Is Blue. (R) 12.45 My Life on a Plate. (R) 1.30 Tessa and Mason's Great Food Trip. (R) 2.00 Film: Guess Who's Coming to Town. (1967) Comedy drama, starring Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn. 3.45 Escape to the Country. (R) 4.30 Demolition: The Wrecking Crew. (R) 5.30 Flog It! (R)

6.30 The Great Pottery Throw Down. Sara Cox invites 10 home pottery enthusiasts to gather in Stoke-on-Trent, where they take part in a competitive throwing contest to determine which of them should be named Potter of the Year. Through a series of 18 challenges, taking place over the course of 35 days, the competitors will be judged on their craft skills and creativity by ceramic artist Kate Malone and master potter Keith Brymer Jones. The competition gets underway as the amateurs take part in a four-day challenge, during which they must produce a set of stackable kitchen bowls from lumps of earthenware clay. They also face a Spot Test, in which they must attach handles to 20 mugs within a strict time limit, and a Throw Down, where the judges ask them to make as many egg-cups as they can within 20 minutes. (R)

7.30 Rick Stein: From Venice to Istanbul. The chef continues his journey from Croatia and savours the native oysters of Ston, before crossing the border into Albania, where he is joined by his son Jack. (R)

8.30 Dad's Army. Corporal Jones finds himself cast adrift during an exercise pitting Mainwaring and his home-front heroes against their arch-rival Captain Square. (R)

9.00 QI XL. Host Stephen Fry invites Noel Fielding, Rhod Gilbert and Cariad Lloyd to join regular panelist Alan Davies as he meanders through miscellaneous M-themed matters.

9.45 Film: Song for Marion. (2012) Premiere. Comedy drama, with Terence Stamp, Gemma Arterton and Christopher Eccleston.

11.15 The Many Faces of Richard Wilson. (R)

12.15 Film: Mad City. (1997) 2.05 This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. 6.10 Bottom Knocker Street. (R) 6.25 Bottom Knocker Street. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.50 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 7.00 Signed Books: Share a Story. (R) 7.05 Odditorium. (R) 7.30 Sooty & Sweep. (R) 2.25 Super 4. (R) 7.40 Adventure Time. 8.00 Thunderbirds Are Go. 9.00 Jessie. 9.25 Murder, She Wrote. 9.10 20 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 11.25 ITV News: Weather. 11.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 12.35 Downton Abbey. (R) 1.40 Judge Rinder. (R) 2.45 Doc Martin. (R) 3.45 Film: Death Becomes Her. (1992) Black comedy, starring Goldie Hawn. 5.45 Regional Programme: Weather. 6.00 ITV News: Weather.

6.15 Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000.

7.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special. Rory Bremner, Laura Tobin, Deborah Meaden and Alan Titchmarsh answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to take on the Chaser and secure a cash prize for charity.

8.00 The X Factor. The remaining acts line up for the second stage of the nerve-racking live shows. Caroline Flack and Olly Murs present as the competitors receive another chance to demonstrate their talent in the hopes of claiming a place in the live final later this year. Simon Cowell, Cheryl Fernandez-Versini, Nick Grimshaw and Rita Ora are on hand to appraise the would-be stars, and tomorrow's show will see yet another act eliminated following a tense sing-off.

10.20 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host chats to Sheridan Smith about her role in the stage revival of musical Funny Girl, and is also joined by Joan Collins, Danny DeVito and Ariana Grande.

11.25 ITV News: Weather.

11.45 Piers Morgan's Life Stories. Raquel Welch, most famous for her portrayal of the bikini-clad cave girl in the 1966 film One Million Years BC, reflects on her life and career. (R)

11.45 Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Andrew Denton. (R)

12.40 Jackpot247. 3.00 Show Me the Telly. (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 6.40 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.05 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.30 The Grid. 8.00 The Morning Line. 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Frasier. 10.00 Fred & Rose. (R) 10.30 The Big Bang Theory. 11.30 The Big Bang Theory. 11.55 The Simpsons. (R) 12.30 The Simpsons. (R) 1.00 The Simpsons. (R) 1.30 Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Doncaster, Aintree and Wincanton. 4.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 4.25 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.25 Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.00 Come Dine with Me. Admin worker Jessica Carroll hosts the final party in Lincolnshire. Despite a lack of culinary knowledge, she hopes her Chinese meal and unusual pest will impress the guests. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 The Restoration Man. George Clarke meets Mark Horton, who has bought the derelict shell of an 18th-century folly called Bath Lodge in Ormskirk, near Liverpool, with the dream of converting it himself. (R)

8.00 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud meets Rob Hodgson and Kay Ralph, who plan to build a glass-fronted house on a crumbling cliff-top in Gwynedd, inspired by the villas of California. (R)

9.00 Prison Night. British inmates are given a chance to determine just how authentically some of the world's most popular big-screen depictions of life behind bars really are. A collection of celebrated prison dramas, thrillers and comedies, as voted for by convicts serving time at Her Majesty's pleasure, reveal which films most accurately convey the realities of confinement. Plus, lifers, great escapees, Brits banged up abroad and prison bosses also provide their perspective on the plausibility of some of the cell-based hijinks devoured by cinema-goers over the ages.

10.35 TFI Friday. Elton John, Julianne Moore, Stanley Tucci, the Maccabees and the Vamps join host Chris Evans for music and chat, with stunts and skits. (R)

11.40 Film: Lockout. (2012) Sci-fi thriller, starring Guy Pearce.

1.25 Fargo. (R) 2.20 Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R) 3.15 Hollyoaks. (R) 5.20 Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites. (R) 5.45 Angels of Jarm. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 8.55 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. 9.30 The Saturday Show. 11.25 Ice Road Truckers. (R) 12.25 Ice Road Truckers. (R) 1.25 Film: All I Want For Christmas. (2013) Festive comedy, starring Mariah Carey. 3.00 Film: A Manny for Christmas. (2010) Romantic comedy, starring Emmanuel Vaughan and Richard Ruccolo. 4.50 Film: Mistletoe Over Manhattan. (2011) Christmas fantasy, starring Tricia Helfer and Greg Bryk.

6.35 5 News Weekend.

6.40 Film: Operation Crossbow. (1963) As Allied engineers parachute into occupied Holland on a mission to infiltrate and destroy a German missile base. The trio team up with the local resistance, but two of the men are unaware the third is a Nazi agent. Second World War adventure, starring George Peppard, Sophia Loren, Trevor Howard, Tom Courtenay and John Mills.

9.00 Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's top matches, as well as all the goals from the Championship, including Huddersfield Town v Leeds United, Nottingham Forest v Derby County, and Hull City v Middlesbrough. Plus, a round-up of the main talking points and interviews with a selection of players and managers.

10.15 Greatest Comedy Movies – Ever! Special programme celebrating the greatest comedy films ever made, featuring recordings and revelations from stars on both sides of the camera.

11.50 Film: See No Evil, Hear No Evil. (1989) A blind man and his deaf friend go on the run to escape a trumped-up murder charge and crook tracking down a top-secret microphone. Comedy, starring Richard Pryor and Gene Wilder.

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Great Movie Mistakes V: Revenge of the Fifth. 7.15 Don't Tell the Bride. 8.15 Top Gear 9.15 Russell Howard's Good News. 10.15 Film: Halloween: Resurrection. (2012) 11.45 Family Guy. 1.55 Together 2.25 Rent a Cop 2.55 Asian Provocateur 3.25 The Fear 3.55 Close

BBC Four

7.00 Tumtakhamun: The Truth Uncovered 8.00 Lost Kingdoms of Central America 9.00 Anne Dahl: Afterquake – Part Two 10.00 Anna Dahl: Afterquake – Part Two 11.00 Ultimate Covers: What's the BBC 12.00 Better Than The Original? 12.00 The Cover Version 1.00 Singin' Dylan 2.00 Top of the Pops. 1982 2.35 Lost Kingdoms of Central America 3.35 Close

ITV2

12.10 The Xtra Factor. 1.10 Tricked 2.10 Catchphrase 2.50 You've Been Framed. 3.20 Film: The Little Vampire. (2000) 5.15 Film: Scooby-Doo 2: Monsterville Unleashed. (2004) 7.10 Film: Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure. (1989) 9.00 Film: The Fast and the Furious. (2001) 11.10 Celebrity Juice. 11.55 The Almost Impossible Game Show. 12.55 Release the Hounds. 1.50 Tricked 2.40 Teleshopping 5.40 ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

2.00 Rosemary & Thyme 3.00 Agatha Christie's Marple 4.55 Film: Columbo: Negative Reaction. (1974) 7.00 Doc Martin 8.00 Midsummers Murders 10.00 Lewis 12.00 Inspector Morse 2.05 ITV3 Nightscreen 2.30 Teleshopping

ITV4

11.35 The Professionals 1.40 Pawn Stars 3.25 Storage Wars 4.20 Storage Wars: New York 5.00 Film: Red River. (1948) 9.00 Film: Tremors. (1990) 11.00 Film: Raw Deal. (1986) 1.10 The Big Fish Off 2.10 Minder 3.00 Teleshopping

Film4

1.00 Five Children and It (2004) 2.45 Magic in the Water. (1995) 4.45 Tooth Fairy (2010) 6.50 Mission: Impossible (1996) 9.00 Knight and Day (2010) 11.10 Sorority Row (2009) 1.10 The Social Network (2010) 3.35 Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

The Hangover, ITV, 9pm

Three men on a stag weekend in Las Vegas wake up after a night of heavy drinking and find they have not only misplaced the groom, but somehow gained a tiger and a baby. Unable to remember the details of the night before, they set about piecing the clues together in the hope of finding their missing friend. Comedy, starring Bradley Cooper, Ed Helms and Zach Galifianakis. (2009)

TUESDAY

The Mission, BBC1, 11.55pm

The missionary work of Jesuit priests in 18th-century Brazil is threatened by the activities of unscrupulous colonial merchants and rival factions within the Church, leading to a series of tense confrontations which not only endanger their lives but also their faith. Historical drama, starring Robert De Niro, Jeremy Irons, Cherie Lunghi and Ray McAnally. (1986)



The Insider, Wednesday, Channel 4, 12.30am

WEDNESDAY

The Insider, Channel 4, 12.30am

A scientist is fired from his job with a tobacco company, and agrees to expose his former employers' secrets to a journalist – including the allegation that the company had deliberately increased the addictive quality of cigarettes. Michael Mann's fact-based drama, starring Al Pacino and Russell Crowe. (1999)

THURSDAY

Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves, Channel 5, 10pm

An English nobleman returns home from the crusades to find his father has been murdered and the local people are repressed by the tyrannical rule of the Sheriff of Nottingham. Branded an outlaw, he recruits a group of bandits to fight for justice and protect the downtrodden. Action adventure, starring Kevin Costner and Alan Rickman. (1991)

FRIDAY

Cross of Iron, BBC2, 12.45am

A German sergeant on the Russian front in 1943 is sickened by an officer who risks men's lives for his own glory. Sam Peckinpah's Second World War drama, starring James Coburn, Maximilian Schell, James Mason and David Warner. (1977)

CHRONICLE



The stars shine brightly in aid of a good cause

How to transform yourself from a smooth-talking professional to a dribbling idiot in one easy move – host a live TV show.

Those watching at home may think standing in front of a camera and reading an autocue is easy, but for presenters, it can be a living nightmare – especially if something goes wrong and they're left to fill in 'dead air'.

Arguably the biggest and most difficult live TV event of the year is Children in Need, thanks in no small part to the fact it lasts for such a long time. What's more, this year it's being broadcast on Friday 13th – surely a recipe for disaster if ever there was one?

Well, maybe not. After all, it's in the safe hands of Terry Wogan, who seems to thrive on such occasions. He will be joined for the first part of the evening by Tess Daly, who is no stranger to live TV, having co-hosted Strictly Come Dancing with, initially, Bruce Forsyth and latterly with Claudia Winkleman, for the past 11 years. But even she could learn a thing or two from Sir

Terry who makes the whole process seem completely effortless – perhaps it's because he's so affable and always does his best to make those appearing in the studio at their ease.

"I'm not a confrontational interviewer," explains Wogan. "It would be easy to be abrasive, but nobody would want to come on the show. Sometimes an interview I think didn't go well was actually very good, and vice versa. You're not always the best judge yourself."

Despite retiring from his radio show, Terry is as busy as ever, but he claims he'll always have time for this fundraiser.

"It is always a privilege and pleasure, the highest point of my year, to present BBC Children in Need," he says. "This year we are hoping the great British public will give us even more. We've certainly got a fantastic show line-up this year. I know I say that every year but this year really is special."

Although the BBC's first Children's Appeal arrived in 1972, the first

telethon version didn't appear on our screens until 1980, and the aim each year is to beat the previous total. Seeing as a record £32,620,469 was raised on the night in 2014, the fundraisers have a tough task ahead of them, but hopefully the public will be inspired to dig deep by the serious stories they hear as well as the entertainment on offer.

Among the highlights on offer during the first, two-and-a-half-hour stint are performances by Ellie Goulding, the Children's Choir, Rod Stewart and Jessie J, who performs the evening's official song, Take Me Home.

Also popping up is a Strictly special, which sees Bruce Forsyth return to the ballroom to host an edition featuring the stars of Call the Midwife – as has their colleague Helen George, who is currently taking part in the dance challenge, been giving them tips?

Then, in the second half after the news, Rochelle Humes and Nick Grimshaw take over from Daly and help Wogan keep the ball rolling into the wee small hours.



Tess Daly presents Children in Need 2015, Friday, BBC1, 7.30pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

The Shopper's Guide to Saving Money
Channel 4, 8.30pm

We work hard all week, perhaps hoping to let our hair down by indulging in some retail therapy once we clock off. With that in mind, it would be nice to think that when we do splash out, we're getting value for money. But is that the case? This new, four-part programme introduced by Dave Fishwick and Kate Quilton hopes to answer that question by investigating whether we really do get our money's worth for goods and services. They hear from big corporations and industry insiders about how much certain products cost to make before offering tips on securing the best deals for such items as jeans, airline tickets, diamonds, perfume, gas bills and even funerals. But they begin by looking at the cost of taking care of man's best friend before delving into the world of printer ink.

TUESDAY

MasterChef: The Professionals
BBC2, 8pm

New series. Six aspiring chefs compete in the cookery contest, beginning with a test of their basic skills. The first contestants must make the French dessert, a Floating Island, while the remaining three have to cook a blue steak with a green peppercorn

sauce in 15 minutes. Finally, the six chefs cook their own signature dish for judges Monica Galetti, Gregg Wallace and Marcus Wareing. It is their last chance to show off their culinary talent before three of them are sent home, and three become quarter finalists.

WEDNESDAY

Cuffs

BBC1, 8pm

What makes this series stand out from all the other police dramas is its impressive ensemble cast – and they've got plenty to do in this episode. Donna and Lino are on the hunt for an escaped prisoner, but despite the pressure from on high to find him as quickly as possible, they are forced to suspend their search when they come across a life-threatening situation. Elsewhere, a distressing domestic violence case leads Jake and Ryan to come to blows, but when Jo is called in to deal with the fallout, can she persuade the victim to testify against her abusive partner? Meanwhile, Carl joins forces with Felix to look into a spate of muggings that have all targeted private school boys, and in the process gets a new insight into his reclusive boss.

Peep Show

Channel 4, 10pm

New series. The last series of the comedy saw Mark and Jeremy get mildly electrocuted in a field, abandoned by Dobby despite their declarations of love. The final series begins with Mark working in a bank and having a new flatmate, while Jeremy still refuses to apologise for falling in love with Dobby, at least until the time is right. However, the pair have to put their differences aside to help Super Hans maintain his newly clean and healthy lifestyle, and Jeremy's resolve is tested when he becomes in urgent need of a loan.



MasterChef: The Professionals, Tuesday, BBC2, 8pm

which is in aid of two very good causes – it's not only raising money for Children in Need, it's also paying tribute to one of Britain's best-loved music legends, Tom Jones. As you would expect, Jones will be performing with his band, but he'll also be joined by some very special guests, including James Morrison, Laura Mvula, Dame Evelyn Glennie, The Shires and Chickenshed. And while the music was recorded live the SSE Arena, Wembley, on October 8, there will also be some pre-recorded comedy sketches, looking back at some of the key moments from Jones's long and illustrious career, including a special mini-episode of Brydon and Steve Coogan's series The Trip.

FRIDAY

Live International Football

ITV, 7.30pm

Spain v England (Kick-off 7.45pm). Coverage of the friendly match from Estadio Jose Rico Perez in Alicante, featuring two sides that qualified convincingly for Euro 2016. Reigning European champions Spain won nine and lost just one of their group matches, while Roy Hodgson's men won one better, boasting a 100 per cent record. The sides last met in a friendly in November 2011, when Frank Lampard's goal gave England a 1-0 win at Wembley. Mark Pougatch presents.

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Two stunning properties — a home and offices too



THE Heathlands and The Cottage on Kidderminster Road, Bewdley, are two stunning properties tucked away up a sweeping driveway within 3.25 acres in a beautiful rural area.

The first is a superbly presented five-bedroomed family home, while the second is a separate versatile building currently used as offices. They are for sale through Phipps & Pritchard at £695,000.

The Heathlands has a porch, a spacious reception hall, a lounge, formal dining room, conservatory, snug/study, breakfast kitchen, utility, boot room, cloakroom/WC, en suite master bedroom and four further double bedrooms. The Cottage would lend itself perfectly for dual family living or working from home. There are also lovely gardens and two paddocks. Contact Phipps & Pritchard on 01562 822244 or visit the website www.phippsandpritchard.co.uk



Cherry attractive four-bedroom home in a Bewdley cul-de-sac

DECEPTIVELY spacious, Cherry Stones, Yew Tree Close, Bewdley, is also beautifully positioned within a quiet cul-de-sac in the delightful Worcestershire town. It is for sale through Halls at £295,000.

The property has a driveway, entrance porch, entrance hall, WC, kitchen with floor tiling, integrated dishwasher and double oven, induction hob and extractor hood above, breakfast bar and space for larder-style fridge/freezer.

There is also a dining hall, a bathroom, living room, three double first-floor bedrooms, garage, and a fourth bedroom.

There is a carport and south-facing rear garden with stores, sheds, patio and seating area with steps down to a lawn and a fish pond.

Contact Halls on 01562 820880 or visit online at the www.hallsgb.com website.



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1920s home with patio and superb treetop views

A DISTINCTIVE 1920s detached house in a private drive with splendid elevated treetop views, 36 Moor Hall Lane, Stourport-on-Severn, is within easy reach of the town centre and the river.

It is for sale through Allan Morris at £310,000.

With double glazing and central heating it has a central reception hall, three bedrooms, a bathroom, spacious lounge, dining room, study, with open plan conservatory dining area, WC and utility.

The property has a double-length garage and parking space, and lawned front gardens. There are also outbuildings, part of which has been converted into a summer house with power and patio terrace.

For further information contact Allan Morris on 01562 747755 or visit www.allan-morris.co.uk website.



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LANSFIELD
•Modern three bedroom detached house
•Extended, well maintained & attractively presented
•Situated in a pleasant cul-de-sac location
•Attached garage & easily maintained private rear garden
•SELDGEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



55A SPRING ROAD £139,950

GORNAL WOOD
•Semi detached house
•Three bedrooms
•In need of updating works
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•SELDGEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



352 HIMLEY ROAD O/A £139,950

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•Semi detached house
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•Approximately 0.134 acres
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- Well maintained detached family home
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- Enviable position at head of cul de sac
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3 HARVINGTON ROAD, COSELEY £179,950

- Detached house with three bedrooms
- Two reception rooms, extended dining room, utility
- Well maintained and attractively presented accommodation
- Occupying a pleasant and convenient location
- SELDGEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E



54 MOUNT ROAD £179,950

LANSFIELD
•Traditional detached house
•Three bedrooms
•Improved & extended
•Deceptive accommodation
•SELDGEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E



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Traditional semi located in a convenient location



A TRADITIONAL semi-detached home with four bedrooms, 11 Brookfields Road, Oldbury, is situated opposite Langley Swimming Baths. In need of general improvement, it is for sale through Tom Giles at £199,950.

With a large private garden to the rear and being set back from the roadside, it has a long L-shaped driveway with parking for up to six vehicles, side lawn and borders, porch, reception hall with laminate flooring and an under-stairs cupboard, front sitting room with bay window, lounge/dining room, dining kitchen with L-shaped worktop, built-in oven, gas hob and

There is also a side verandah, lobby, downstairs WC, four bedrooms and a bathroom.

For further information contact Tom Giles on 0121 5526171 or visit www.tomgiles.net website.



Home described as ideal for first timers



IDEAL for first-time buyers, this three-bedrooomed modern stylish property in Bradfield Way, Dudley, was built in 2012 and lies in a quiet cul-de-sac.

It is for sale through Swinscoes at £139,950.

The spacious and contemporary accommodation comprises of an entrance hall, downstairs WC, breakfast kitchen and lounge, three good-sized bedrooms and a family bathroom. The property has double glazing, gas central heating, block paved driveway parking for 2 cars and a rear garden. Contact Swinscoes on 01902 672274 or visit www.swinscoes.co.uk website.



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3 bedroom home with a bonus room

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New



DUDLEY, Richborough Drive

Stylish, spacious, gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed detached upon corner plot in favoured district comprising; entrance hallway, lounge, dining room, lobby, fitted cloakroom, kitchen. Three generous bedrooms (principal bedroom with large shower room en suite and two bedrooms with professionally installed first quality fitted units), bathroom. Garage, block paved driveway. EPC: T.B.A. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £193,000



UPPER GORNAL, Pale Street

SPACIOUS, NEW BUILD, gas centrally heated, double glazed dormer style detached with flexible room arrangements. Conveniently situated, the accommodation comprises; hall, stylish BATHROOM, double bedroom, magnificent 'hub of the house' 19 ft living/dining room/kitchen. To first floor is a large 20'7" principal bedroom with shower room en suite. Parking, gardens, distant views. EPC: SAP: B. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £189,950



WALL HEATH, Brookside Way

A VERY IMPRESSIVE 3 BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED HOUSE which enjoys a pleasant 'open' front aspect together with a LONG ESTABLISHED and LANDSCAPED REAR GARDEN, superbly located within a much sought after 'cul-de-sac', with 2 Reception Rooms and CONSERVATORY. EPC C

£189,950



SEDGLEY, Ashen Close, Northway

ENVIRIABLY SITUATED backing on to open fields. Gas centrally heated, double glazed detached bungalow with PLANNING CONSENT for rear extension comprising; hallway, cloaks, refitted kitchen, 17'4" living/dining room, inner hallway, store, two bedrooms (both with fitted units & principal bedroom with patio doors out to the garden), bathroom. Gated driveway, garage, garden. EPC:D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £185,000



COSELEY, Lane Street, Daisy Bank

Gas centrally heated double glazed 3 DOUBLE BEDROOM, detached-EXTENSIVE PARKING -TRANSFORMED with, hall, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen with granite work tops & range, sitting room, 19'5" uPVC DG conservatory; gardens. EPC:D. SEDGLEY



WALL HEATH, Forge Lane

A SUBSTANTIALLY EXTENDED & IMPROVED TRADITIONAL SEMI DETACHED HOME, well placed for excellent schooling, offering a very spacious, attractively appointed 3 / 4 BEDROOM layout, plus a large driveway, patio/lawned rear garden and a REAR GARAGE. EPC C

£169,950



LOWER GORNAL , Chaucer Avenue, Straits

This extended semi-detached family home offers huge potential for improvement and is situated in the extremely popular area of The Straits Lower Gornal. It comprises of THREE BEDROOMS, entrance hallway, through-lounge, dining room, extended kitchen, re-fitted shower room, integral garage, centrally heated and double glazed, drive to front and enclosed rear garden. Offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £164,950



COSELEY, Breen Rydding Drive

OUTSTANDING gas centrally heated, UPVC double glazed semi detached accommodation provides hall, lounge, 17'3" dining kitchen with patio doors, pantry, utility room, fitted cloak room. Three good bedrooms (two with fitted wardrobes), reappointed bathroom. Garage, neat gardens. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY



LOWER GORNAL, The Straits, Browning Road

RECENTLY REFURBISHED! - A gas centrally heated UPVC double glazed semi detached in favoured/exceptionally convenient district that has recently been enhanced, upgraded and modernised. Accommodation provides reception hall, store, lounge/dining room, refitted kitchen, three bedrooms, reappointed/retilled bathroom with white suite, gardens. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE

WAS £160,000, NOW £155,000

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SEDGLEY, Dormston Drive

Situated within walking distance of Bull Ring; a gas radiator centrally heated, uPVC double glazed double doors comprising; hallway, cloaks, 24'5" through living/dining room, kitchen.

Three bedrooms, bathroom, block paving, garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY



LOWER GORNAL, Cinder Road

An attractive spacious and enlarged freehold gas centrally heated and primarily UPVC double glazed semi detached in favoured district. Accommodation includes porch, reception hall, lounge/dining room, UPVC CONSERVATORY, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom ample parking, delightful good size garden. EPC rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE



WOODSETTON, Woodsetton Close

A fantastically presented and superbly maintained semi-detached property located on a sought after cul-de-sac, situated in the popular area of Woodsetton. This family home benefits from UPVC double glazing, gas central heating, THREE BEDROOMS, living room, kitchen, dining, family bathroom, garage, driveway to front and attractive enclosed rear garden. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £154,950



LOWER GORNAL, Grosvenor Road

This surprisingly large and extremely well presented UPVC double glazed gas centrally heated detached dormer style BUNGALOW situated in the popular Lower Gornal area and benefits from entrance hallway, lounge, kitchen, conservatory, THREE BEDROOMS (en suite to master), two large garages, front and rear gardens. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY



WOODSETTON, Vicarage Road West

uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated, double fronted detached bungalow occupying an impressive plot set in established/convenient neighbourhood. Conscientiously modernised and benefit from some sympathetic updating the accommodation provides entrance porch, reception hall, cloak, two bedrooms, bathroom, lounge, breakfast kitchen, and an exceptionally large garage, gardens. EPC: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE

Offers in the region of £149,950



QUARRY BANK, Mount Pleasant

A BRILLIANT opportunity to acquire an EXTENDED, DETACHED HOME which comprises: Hall, TWO RECEPTION ROOMS, Fitted Kitchen, THREE FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS, Bathroom, Attractive Driveway, LARGE & LOVELY REAR GARDEN. NO UPWARD CHAIN! EPC F

£149,950



Brierley Hill, Westwood Street

A FANTASTIC opportunity to purchase a SUBSTANTIAL, DETACHED HOME which comprises: Hall, THREE RECEPTION ROOMS, Kitchen, THREE HUGE FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS, Bathroom, Separate W.C., Garage, LARGE REAR GARDEN. EPC F

£149,950



LOWER GORNAL, Grafton Gardens, Straits

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Envably situated in cul-de-sac just off The Straits within walking distance of the village & backing on to country park at rear; a significantly improved, Freehold, gas centrally heated & double glazed semi-detached family home briefly comprising; hallway, spacious living/dining room, rear hallway with store, kitchen, Three generous bedrooms, refitted bathroom with white suite, Garage, Sheltered garden abutting on to woodland. EPC: E. SEDGLEY

Fixed Price of £140,000



GORNAL WOOD, Cinder Road

NO UPWARD CHAIN within walking distance of Village! A gas centrally heated UPVC double glazed semi detached that has been completely redecorated and refreshed in recent months comprising; hall, cloak, kitchen, living/dining room. THREE BEDROOMS (principal bedroom with a shower room en suite), bathroom. Parking, garden. EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £139,950



LOWER GORNAL, The Straits

An attractive SIGNIFICANTLY EXTENDED gas centrally heated and UPVC double glazed semi detached 'miner cottage' with NO UPWARD CHAIN envably situated in favoured/convenient district. The property offers further potential and presently comprises entrance hallway, lounge, extended 17ft hub of the house, dining kitchen (with patio doors out to garden), lobby, separate toilet. Two bedrooms, bathroom, delightful particularly lengthy sheltered rear garden. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £130,000



UPPER GORNAL, Naylor's Grove

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Well presented good-sized family property situated in the popular area of Upper Gornal. The gas centrally heated accommodation includes entrance hall, living room, dining room, breakfast-kitchen, conservatory, guest W/C, utility, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom. Enclosed rear garden, driveway to front. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £122,500



DUDLEY, Elm Green, Old Park Farm Estate

A conscientiously maintained and well presented, semi-detached property with UPVC double glazing, part gas centrally heated and situated the popular area of 'The Greens'. This fine property benefits from THREE BEDROOMS, living room, kitchen-diner, guest W/C, refitted bathroom, block-paved driveway and enclosed rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £104,950



PENNSNETT, Mullett Street

This SPACIOUS & VERSATILE, TWO BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Porch, Hall, Sitting Room, Breakfast Kitchen, Side Veranda with Workshop off, Two Large First Floor Bedrooms, Modern Shower Room, Large Driveway, Substantial Garden. EPC: C

£99,950



DUDLEY, Heath Green, Old Park Farm estate

A well presented family home situated in the popular 'Greens' area of Dudley and benefiting from; part double glazing, gas central heating, porch, entrance hallway, living room, kitchen-diner, utility, THREE BEDROOMS, family bathroom, enclosed rear garden. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £92,950



TIPTON, Bonneville Close

Superb, modern ground floor apartment which comprises of upvc double glazing, gas central heating and secure entrance doors, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, TWO BEDROOMS, bathroom, allocated parking and NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY

New price WAS £74,950, NOW £69,950



PUBLIC NOTICE, Property Address: 37 Viewfield Crescent, Sedgley, Dudley, DY3 3UP

By order of the Mortgagors in possession, we would advise you that the property will be sold for the above amount by the sum of £513,000. EPC: F. Any person wishing to increase on this offer should notify the selling agents of their best offer either prior to exchange or within the next 7 days whichever is sooner. Taylors, 2a Dudley Street, Sedgley, Dudley, DY3 1SB. 01902 880888

Superb village residence with 29ft conservatory



SET in the heart of the Staffordshire village of Essington, in Elmwood Avenue, this superb modern detached residence has spacious accommodation.

Redesigned to include a ground-floor annexe-style living area including a lounge, bedroom and wet room, it is for sale through Connells at £369,999.

The main accommodation briefly comprises an entrance porch, an entrance hall, a generous lounge with separate dining room, a fitted breakfast kitchen, utility and ground-floor WC and – one of the many features of this property – a 29ft conservatory.

The first floor benefits from a landing area, four further generous bedrooms, two further en suites and a separate family bathroom.

Externally the property has a large frontage providing ample block-paved off-road parking with a superb generous detached garage. The rear garden has a pleasant lawned area with a fantastic range of plants, trees and shrubs.

For further information contact Connells on 01902 710170 or visit the website www.connells.co.uk



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CANNOCK CHASE Landlords Forum

Thursday 12th November 2015 6.30pm
CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL, CIVIC CENTRE,
BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK



If you are a Landlord with property to rent particularly in the Cannock Chase Area, why not attend the next meeting of the Landlords Forum?

Guest Speakers for the evening are:

Wayne Barber

(Local Partnership Manager) HOME OFFICE

'Right to Rent' Checks from 01/02/16

Neil Griffiths

(Fire Safety Officer) Staffordshire Fire and Rescue 'New' Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Regulations from 01/10/15

Housing Options / Private Sector Team

'Update' on Retaliatory evictions from 01/10/15 under the Deregulation Act 2015

Representation from:

Rob Wolfe

Local Taxation and Benefits Manager

Mandy Bygrave

National Landlords Association

For more information Contact

Julie Cope/Dee Kalirai
Housing Options Team, Civic Centre, Beecroft Road,
Cannock WS11 1BG
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• Highly prominent 3 storey office building situated in recognised office quarter within the City Centre
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over 3 principal floors with basement in addition
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TO LET/FOR SALE



HIGH BAY WAREHOUSE WITH CRANE HIGH BAY WAREHOUSE WITH CRANE
Unit 44 Central Trading Estate, Cable Street, Wolverhampton
• 8,960 sqft (832.5 sqm) high bay warehouse
• 2 Storey offices, mezzanine with onsite parking available
• Benefits from a brand new roof
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Wolverhampton Office

TO LET



REFURBISHED TRADE COUNTER/ INDUSTRIAL UNITS WITH OFFICES AND SHARED YARD/CAR PARK
Units 1 & 2 & 4 Wednesfield Industrial Estate, Wednesfield
• Unit 3 - 5,963 sqft (554 sqm) & unit 4 - 6,015 sqft (558 sqm) - available individually or combined
• Recently refurbished to a high standard - front roller shutter doors, gas central heating
• Located close to the main A4124, Bentley Bridge Retail park and a mix of occupiers
• Competitive terms • Rent: £3.50 per sqft per annum exclusive
Wolverhampton Office

TO LET



INDUSTRIAL/VEHICLE REPAIR WORKSHOP NEACHELLS LANE, WEDNESFIELD
• Approx. 5,095 sqft (464.4 sqm)
• Benefits from four roller shutter doors, 4.8 m eaves and gas fired warm air heating.
• Excellent vehicle parking
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• Rent: £25,000 per annum exclusive
Wolverhampton Office

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THIS traditional semi-detached property in Glyn Farm Road, Quinton, Birmingham, is an ideal family home.

It is for sale through Robert Oulsnam at £165,000. The property is situated within easy reach of Junction 3 of the M5 and the Hagley Road. Asda, Tesco, Starbucks and the Reel Cinema are all located within a mile.

The accommodation includes three bedrooms with built-in wardrobes, a bay-fronted through lounge complete with feature fireplace and sliding patio doors to rear garden, a useful lean-to providing storage space and side access to the garden and a block-paved driveway providing parking for two vehicles. There is also a porch, entrance hall, a kitchen and a bathroom.

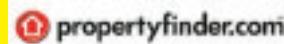
Contact Robert Oulsnam on 0121 4299986 or visit the website www.oulsnam.net





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KINGSWINFORD
Ashley Close

NEW INSTRUCTION

A superb and very WELL PRESENTED semi-detached property off Cot Lane, a desirable location in Kingswinford. Having an enclosed entrance porch, through hallway, dining room, SPACIOUS LOUNGE, first floor landing, THREE BEDROOMS and a shower room. Outside is a foregarden and a shared driveway leading to a DETACHED GARAGE and rear garden. Viewing comes highly recommended. EPC - Ordered

£189,950

DUDLEY
Cardoness Place

NO UPWARD CHAIN! Trinity Property are pleased to offer a semi detached property in a popular location in Dudley. Having an entrance hall, SPACIOUS OPEN PLAN LOUNGE, kitchen diner with appliances, two bedrooms, family bathroom, front and rear LANDSCAPED gardens and two separate parking spaces. VIEWING COMES HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. EPC - Ordered.

£134,950

Kingswinford Halt Mews

A superb and well presented SEMI-DETACHED property on the highly demanded "Himley View" modern development. This property has been much improved from the original specification having an entrance hall, guest WC, FITTED KITCHEN, spacious lounge, two DOUBLE bedrooms, family bathroom and a well kept rear garden. Having two parking spaces to the front, viewing is highly recommended on this fantastic home! EPC - C

£155,000

BRIERLEY HILL
Bent Street

NEW INSTRUCTION

TRINITY PROPERTY are pleased to offer for sale a unique opportunity to buy a traditional style DETACHED property with a yard and GARAGE/WORKSHOP. Having TWO bedrooms, two reception rooms and an EXTENDED kitchen leading onto a YARD giving possibilities for business use (subject to planning). Located close to the MERRY HILL Shopping Centre, this property, previously used a coal merchants and having NO UPWARD CHAIN, is well worth viewing! EPC - Ordered

£189,950

LANESFIELD
Brynmwar Road

Trinity Property are pleased to offer for sale a SEMI-DETACHED property having an entrance hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen, UTILITY ROOM, guest WC, three bedrooms, bathroom, separate WC and WELL KEPT front and rear gardens. The property is close to local shops and amenities and easy access to the Black Country Route offering access to all motorway networks. Viewing is highly recommended. EPC - D

£115,000

TIPTON
Bayleys Lane

NEW PRICE

A traditional style semi-detached house having an enclosed porch, entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, upstairs bathroom, front side and rear gardens and out buildings. EPC - F

£94,950

WE CAN SELL YOUR HOME FOR £1200 INCLUDING VAT (£999 + VAT) NO SALE NO FEE NO CATCH ANY HOUSE ANY VALUE!

OAKHAM
Greenfels Rise

NEW INSTRUCTION

This is an EXTENDED four bedroom DETACHED HOME in a private cul-de-sac location in a CORNER POSITION. Having an entrance hallway, guest WC, extended lounge, FITTED DINING KITCHEN with appliances, CONSERVATORY, Family bathroom, attractive gardens to front, side and rear and a GARAGE. Located in the popular residential area of OAKHAM and has easy access to M5/M6 corridor links. The property come highly recommended for early viewing. EPC - Ordered

£260,000

GORNAL
Goodrich Mews

NEW PRICE

A very well presented and well planned corner-turner style property having a spacious entrance hall, guest WC, lounge, KITCHEN DINER with fitted appliances, first floor landing, master bedroom with ensuite, two further bedrooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens and a shared driveway. VIEWING COMES HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. EPC - ordered

£147,500

DUDLEY
Cardoness Place

NEW PRICE

Trinity Property are pleased to offer for sale a well presented SEMI-DETACHED property on a corner plot in a popular location in Dudley. Having an entrance hall, SPACIOUS OPEN PLAN LOUNGE, kitchen diner with appliances, two bedrooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens and a shared driveway. NO UPWARD CHAIN; an outstanding and exceptionally stylish top floor apartment situated in secured landscaped grounds within walking distance of Dudley town centre. The apartment comprises of double bedroom with en-suite shower room, second bedroom, bathroom, large living room, allocated parking, professionally maintained/landscaped gated grounds. EPC - Ordered.

£119,950

DUDLEY
Queens Hall, St

NEW INSTRUCTION

NO UPWARD CHAIN; an outstanding and exceptionally stylish top floor apartment situated in secured landscaped grounds within walking distance of Dudley town centre. The apartment comprises of double bedroom with en-suite shower room, second bedroom, bathroom, large living room, allocated parking, professionally maintained/landscaped gated grounds. EPC - Ordered.

£104,950

Tividale Quays
Bradshaw Close

NEW INSTRUCTION

TRINITY PROPERTY are pleased to offer for sale a great opportunity for a FIRST TIME BUYER or property INVESTOR. This mid terraced modern style property comes with an entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, two DOUBLE bedrooms, a family bathroom, rear garden and space for PARKING. With no upward chain, this property comes highly recommended. EPC - C

£94,950

Tividale
Taylor Way

REDUCED

A three bed detached property on a popular modern estate with good transport links, having double glazing and central heating, lounge, fitted kitchen/diner with utility room off, upstairs has three good sized bedrooms (master with en-suite shower/WC), house bathroom/WC. Front and rear gardens, off road parking, single garage. Unfurnished, available for long term rental. No pets, no smokers, no DSS. EPC - D

£695 PCM & Fees

DUDLEY
Dingle Road

TO LET

A spacious three bedroom family home near the Oakham Road with dining room, lounge, utility area, garage, two large double rooms and a further small single room, house shower room/WC with separate bidet. No DSS, no pets, available now for long term let. Unfurnished. EPC - E

£695 PCM & Fees

BRIERLEY HILL
Milton Street

TO LET

A three bedroom semi-detached house with two reception rooms. Fitted kitchen. Downstairs toilet. Upstairs bathroom. Two double bedrooms and further single. Driveway. Garden to rear. DSS considered with guarantor. Available now to view. EPC - D

£525 PCM & Fees

DUDLEY
Ivanhoe Street

TO LET

Three bedroom end terrace. Has two reception rooms, kitchen with cooker, bathroom, central heating, double glazing. Unfurnished. DSS considered with guarantor. Available now to view. EPC - D

£495 PCM & Fees

DUDLEY
Aldeney Close

TO LET

A modern first floor apartment on this new development. Accommodation comprising of one bedroom, open plan lounge/fitted kitchen. Viewing highly recommended, No Pets, No DSS - EPC B

£465 PCM & Fees

NETHERTON
Windmill End

TO LET

A two bedroom ground floor flat with separate entrance and access to rear courtyard. Accommodation comprises of open plan lounge and kitchen area. Bathroom with shower over bath and w/c. Gas central heating. Unfurnished, available to view now. DSS considered with guarantor or through Dudley council bond scheme. EPC - C

£450 PCM & Fees



Prices for Brit-built Astra

Vauxhall's all-new Astra Sports Tourer will be in showrooms in March priced from £16,585 on-the-road.

The new Sports Tourer, built at Vauxhall's manufacturing plant in Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, follows hot on the heels of the highly-acclaimed five-door model and is up to £1,870 less expensive than the outgoing ST with a simplified range.

The new Astra Sports Tourer range includes Design, Tech Line, SRi and Elite, with Nav versions of the SRi and Elite trims also available. Range highlights include the 1.0-litre three-cylinder Turbo Start/Stop ecoFLEX model (prices start at £18,785 on-the-road) that achieves 85.6mpg and class-leading CO₂ emissions of 86g/km.

All pricing, fuel economy and emission figures are provisional and subject to change.

Each trim level features a high level of standard specification.

The range-topping 1.6-litre (200PS)

	07/57 Volkswagen Touareg 2.5 TDI Diesel DPF 7H SE E4 Tip Auto 75k, Silver, Grey Leather, Alloys, Sat-Nav, Climate Control £11995 / £55 Per Week		09/09 Citroen Berlingo Multispace XTR 1.6 HDI Diesel 61k, Silver, Air Con, CD, E/Windows £5495 / £26 Per Week
	06/06 Mercedes CLS320 CDI Diesel 4dr Tip Auto 75k, Silver, Black Leather, Alloys, Sat-Nav, Climate Control £9495 / £49 Per Week		12/62 Citroen C3 Picasso VTR Plus 1.6 HDI Diesel *ONLY £30 ROAD TAX* 112k, Red, Alloys, Air Con, CD, E/Windows £4995 / £24 Per Week
	07/07 Honda CR-V 2.2 i-CTDi Diesel ES 5dr 4WD 4k, Beige, Alloys, Climate Control, CD Player £7995 / £41 Per Week		08/08 Citroen C4 1.6 HDI Diesel 16V VTR Plus 5dr AUTOMATIC *Only £30 Road Tax* Only 59k miles, Silver, Alloys, Air Con, CD, Player £4495 / £23 Per Week
	09/09 Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 Elite Turbo Estate Automatic 5k, Sage Metallic, Alloys, Cream Leather, Climate Control, E/Windows £7495 / £39 Per Week		05/15 Vauxhall Zafira 1.9 CDTi Club Diesel [120] 5dr 7 Seater, ONLY 50k miles, White, Alloys, Air Con, CD Player £4495 / £23 Per Week
	07/57 Jaguar S-Type 2.7D V6 Diesel SE 4dr, 79k, Grey, Savannah Leather, Heated Seats, Sat-Nav, CD Player £7495 / £39 Per Week		09/19 Ford KA 1.2 Style 3dr, 39k, Blue metallic, CD Player, E/Windows £4295 / £21 Per Week
	08/08 Jaguar X-Type 2.2D S Diesel 4dr Automatic, 59k, Blue, Alloys, Half Cream Leather, Climate Control, CD Player £7495 / £39 Per Week		07/57 Vauxhall Corsa 1.6T 16V SRI 3dr, 68k, Red, Alloys, Two Tone Red and Black Interior, Air Con, CD Player £4295 / £21 Per Week
	07/07 Volvo V50 2.5 SE Lux D5 Estate Automatic 67k, Blue Metallic, Alloys, Grey Leather, Climate Control, E/Windows £6995 / £36 Per Week		08/08 Ford Focus 1.6 Style 5dr, *ONE OWNER* 55k, Red, Air Conditioning, CD Player, Electric Windows £3695 / £18 Per Week
	09/09 Ford Fiesta 1.25 Zetec 3dr, ONLY 26k MILES, Red Metallic, Alloys, Air Con, CD, Heated ft screen £6295 / £33 Per Week		10/10 Chevrolet Spark 1.0 Plus 43k, Silver, Air Con, CD, E/Windows, *Only £30 Road Tax* £3495 / £17 Per Week
	11/60 Vauxhall Meriva Exclusive 1.4 Turbo 39k, Silver, Alloys, Air Con, CD Player, E/Windows £5695 / £27 Per Week		2002/02 Smart City-Cabriolet Passion Softouch 2dr Automatic, 44k, Colourwash Yellow, Alloys, Full Leather, Air Con, CD £2195 / £25 Per Week

Finance example: 10/10 Chevrolet Spark 1.0 plus, Cash Price £3495, Deposit £300, Amount of credit £3195, Fixed interest rate 6.25% Flat rate, 11.8% APR, 60 Payments of £69.90 (£16.13 per week) Total amount payable £4793.44 (Includes £150 Document fee and £150 Completion fee, Subject to status)

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Buckle up for smooth ride in the new BMW3

By Matt Kimberley

You'll need your strongest magnifying glass to see the tiny nips and tucks at the front and rear, but the financially savvy will notice the improvements that have been made to the fuel economy and emissions of various models.

There's now a version that dips to 99g/km, earning free road tax – although to get it you'll need to add the £1,550 automatic gearbox. You'll have to do the maths on that one.

The front bumper is a little less sculpted than before, with a greater emphasis on horizontal lines. That's to cater for the tastes of larger markets than ours. The 3 Series is still an image-focused car, though, proudly displaying the correct badge for business types and feeling very much the part on the inside, too.

You could argue that when it comes to premium cars, the domination of the three-box saloon is not as strong as it once was, but there's still a strong following for what has been a hugely popular and influential model in Britain. If you've got a new 3 Series, you're doing alright.

There's a big boot behind the three rear seats, with recessed bins at the sides and a large aperture that lets you nonchalantly slot larger cases straight in. In the front there are useful door bins, and while you won't fit much into the glovebox, the cabin is very spacious for passengers.

Legroom in the back is ample, and more accommodating than it looks because the 3 Series has longer rear seat squabs than many non-premium cars that use shorter squabs to increase the appearance of space.

Leather-covered surfaces are potentially vulnerable to the rigours of family life, but that's pretty much a given in this part of the market.

The 320d is likely to be the biggest seller. The efficiency numbers are impressive and that optional eight-speed automatic gearbox is superb, despite the hefty price tag. The test car only had around 500 miles on it so the engine was almost certainly still at its tightest, but it's fair to say that it felt nowhere near as brisk as its on-paper 188bhp and 295lb-ft suggest.

What you do get is super-stable handling and oodles of grip on the larger wheels of M Sport versions, and well-controlled floatiness on the Efficient Dynamics (ED Plus) model and its tiny-looking but efficiency-boosting 16-inch alloys. Avoid the inconsistent Servotronic steering, though, which completely ruins the standard set-up's linearity and directness.

There's good visibility in all directions, which is handy because you don't sit too high. Using the iDrive is a joy these days, and if you upgrade the standard BMW Business navigation to the Professional grade you're rewarded with a wider, sharper screen with more functionality.

It's not a cheap step up, though. My pick of the options is the superb head-up display. Again, it's pricey, but once you've had it you'll wonder how you ever managed without.

With options the 320d xDrive I drove totalled £46,000. That's a terrifying, absurd figure you should run away from. A standard but very well equipped 335d, with all its lovely torque, is less than £41,000.

Many of BMW's options are simply replacing existing systems with better versions rather than adding crucial new tech, so stick as close to standard spec as you can. In Sport trim and with the automatic added, the 320d is arguably cheaper to own than rivals from Mercedes, Audi and Jaguar.

This is a car with a long-standing trail of success in this country, but its days as the default upgrade from a Mondeo or Passat have been ended by the splurge of crossovers and compact SUVs, most of which are waving the 'premium' flag as hard as they can. The BMW might be becoming the understated choice, but it still drives and handles better than any of its high-riding rivals.

This car summed up in a single word: Classic.

If this car was a: kitchen table it would be from the mainstay range at an oak furniture shop. It's robust, looks smart and feels solid, carrying with it a style that will never go out of fashion.

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Nine-goal thriller is full of drama for Sports

Dudley Sports 5 Bromyard 4

A remarkable West Midlands Premier game at Dudley Sports yielded a match filled with drama with nine goals, two penalties and a sending-off.

Sports took the lead on five minutes when Shepherd Machingauta raced clear to get the ball into the net and put his side on the score-board.

With less than half an hour of the game gone the score was upped to 2-0.

Bromyard's Martin Newman was sent off after handling on the line and although Stuart Hillman's penalty was saved by the visiting goalkeeper, Aaron Gordon followed up and put the ball away to boost the score.

Not to be outdone 10-man Bromyard got themselves back into the game minutes later. The resurgence came through Dan Polon heading home from a corner.

With the bit between their teeth Bromyard grabbed two goals in the space of four minutes, through Martin Dobson and Dan Scheppel, to put the visitors ahead.

Sports showed real grit and drew level on 48 minutes as Machingauta headed home a Hillman cross.

Bromyard made it 4-3 on the hour when Josh Wetherby scored from the spot.

Yet again Sports came back this time it was captain Tom Watkins who scored from the edge of the box.

Fittingly, the game was settled by a superb goal.

This time it was Hillman who sent in a crashing volley from 25 yards.

Rangers are taken down by Sporting

Wolves Sporting 6

Smethwick Rangers 3

WOLVES Sporting moved back up to sixth place in the West Midlands Premier with a superb win against form side Smethwick Rangers.

The visitors had been unbeaten in six but were three down in rapid time thanks to goals from Daniel Westwood, Kyle Delaney and Nathan Cain.

Wolves also hit a post and Jon Letford missed a good headed chance from six yards.

Smethwick hit back to cut the arrears to 3-2, but in the second half another fast start by the home team saw Chris Brown net twice either side of Letford bagging his second.

A late goal for Rangers took no gloss off the result for Sporting, who have netted 38 goals in their last 10 games.

Wrens Nest enjoy a high five

Wrens Nest 5 FC Stafford 3

FC Stafford's absences and injuries proved too much as they went down 5-3 at Wrens Nest following a poor second-half performance.

With Jon Warburton facing a further three months out and Alex Barnfather missing for the next month through injury, Stafford welcomed back Thomas Duffy and Andy Willicy to the starting line-up.

Stafford started this West Midlands Division One game well, pressing Wrens into their own 18-yard box.

The visitors managed to create opportunities but Ben Smith and Duffy were unable convert.

Wrens were always going to be a threat and un-

derlined that when Chris Rhodes headed home their first attempt of the half from a wide free-kick. Shortly after they doubled the lead, scoring after Stafford failed to clear a corner.

That left keeper Steve McCabe having conceded two goals without touching the ball in play.

Stafford remained positive and kept moving the ball, looking for openings. Duffy was unfortunate not to score his tenth of the season as his effort beat the keeper but was hacked off the line.

But Duffy did have an important impact as his free-kick was met by captain Dave Wilcock who powered his header into the net to give Stafford some hope.

And on 44 minutes Smith grabbed the equalised. Good work from Duffy saw him round the keeper and set up Smith for a tap-in.

After the break Wrens started the better and but for the efforts of McCabe in the Stafford goal the hosts would have regained the lead.

Wrens then hammered their way back in front from a goalmouth scramble. Duffy won a free-kick and brushed himself off to bring Stafford level again.

But on 81 minutes came heartbreak for Stafford and joy for the Nest as a deflected corner was stabbed into his own net by Sam Waterfall. Stafford pressed and the home team netted a late fifth.

Town lose grip on the game in second half

Pegasus Jrs 5 Tipton Town 2

TIPTON Town's first ever visit to the splendid Pegasus ground in Old School Lane, Hereford culminated in a convincing defeat following an insipid second-half performance from the visitors.

Tipton had battled well in the first period of the match to turn it around so it was all square at 1-1 in the West Midlands Premier clash.

Sean Pearson put Pegasus ahead on 12 minutes but the Black Country club equalised through a splendid Ravi Sangher strike just six minutes later which meant the game was on and it could be a case of who blinks first.

Hounours remained pretty even for the remainder of the half but no one could see what is coming when the visitors' performance was, unaccountably, to dip sadly in the second period, allowing the home club and their leading scorer Pearson to run riot and take their opponents out of the running.

Tipton's second-half showing lacked a great deal of the energy they had displayed in the first period and which had kept them in the game.

However, several of the Town defenders were being too easily brushed aside.

Pearson ended up with four goals for Pegasus, Cory Hyde scoring the other as the visitors' Matt Weyman provided a little second-half consolation by netting.

Manager Paul Totney will be looking for a huge improvement this week when local rivals Wolverhampton Casuals will be visiting Tipton Sports Academy.

Glassboys edge into next round of cup

Halesowen 1 Stourbridge 2
STOURBRIDGE manager Gary Hackett felt his team just about deserved to edge the FA Trophy game in a tight contest ahead of a big week for his club.

The opening stages of the derby were understandably nervy but the game came to life after 22 minutes when Stourbridge's Chris Lait crossed for Matt Dodd whose header hit the bar.

The teams went into the changing rooms level at half-time after the sides scored a goal a piece in a six-minute spell.

Stourbridge led when influential former Yellot midfielder Tom Tonks played a neat interchange with Dodd before picking out the unmarked Stuart Pierpoint.

With a shot at goal he smashed a brilliant 28th-minute finish into the top corner from 15 yards.

But the lead proved short-lived as Halesowen equalised after 34 minutes when Reece Hales played a neat dummy, allowing Keyon Reffell to advance with pace and hit a low cross for Aaron Daniels to turn home with perfect timing.

Attrition

The second half soon developed into a battle of attrition as each side strived to gain control of the match with a 73rd-minute penalty appeal from Halesowen's Reffell being turned down by the officials.

The Glassboys struck their 79th-minute winner when Karl Hawley glanced home a close-range header off the underside of the crossbar after Justin Richards whipped across a free-kick from the left.

Reffell missed a late opportunity to level for the Yellots when he sliced wide from 10 yards.

Halesowen Town: Platt; Connolly (Rosser 86), Griffiths (Cooper 82), Westwood (Gueyes 80), Morrison, Lewis, Charlton, Bragoli (c), Reffell, Daniels.

Subs not used: Sergeant (GK).

Stourbridge: Solly; Green, Scarr, Tonks, Smikle, Pierpoint (c), Dodd.

Broadhurst, Hawley, Richards (Knight 90), Lait. Subs not used: Canavan, Wright, Penny, Price (GK).

Tivs pull back to even up the score



Garfield Robinson jinks past a Tividale defender during the derby match

Tividale 1 Chasetown 1

A topsy-turvy game saw Chase town extend their unbeaten run to four matches thanks mainly to goalkeeper John Bateman.

Chasetown started brightly and had the lion's share of the possession, keeping Evo-Stik Division One South bottom club Tividale firmly camped inside their own half.

Despite the territorial ad-

vantage, Thomas Turner in the Tividale goal was relatively untroubled with direct shots at goal, with James Dance firing wide, Stan Mugisha driving over the bar and a Rhys Thompson free-kick right on the edge of the box striking the defensive wall.

It was still no surprise though when Chasetown took the lead.

A corner was headed back into the danger area by Joe Halsall and

a slight obstruction by his own defender caused Turner to spill a regulation catch straight to the feet of Ryan Winter.

Winter took a couple of touches to make the chance easier but comfortably netted his fifth goal of the season. The lead was short-lived as Chris Rabone was sent tumbling in the penalty area and Chris Sterling confidently converted the spot-kick.

Albion need to 'go back to the basics'

CHRIS BRUNT wants Albion to go back to basics at home in order to stop conceding so many goals.

The Baggies have picked up just four points from six games at The Hawthorns this season.

Tony Pulis' side have been defensively sound away from home but at home they've lost three games 3-2.

"We pride ourselves on not conceding goals and at home this season it's been difficult for us," said Brunt. "We've only won here once and we've conceded three goals on a few occasions so that's obviously something we have to address as a team. I'm sure we'll look at it this week."

"I think maybe it's about time we went back to basics at home and made sure we were difficult to beat," said Brunt.

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Baggies are outfoxed at Hawthorns

Albion 2 Leicester 3

JAMIE Vardy stole the headlines by becoming only the third person to score in eight consecutive Premier League games. It was a breakaway goal brimming with confidence, full of class and pace.

When N'Golo Kante played the ball up to the former non-league striker in his own half, Jonny Evans would have been happy with his position.

But Vardy flicked the ball around the Northern Irishman to Danny Drinkwater, spun the other way and sprinted.

Drinkwater played a perfect through-ball and Vardy was away.

There was no catching him, and his finish into the side netting seemed never in doubt.

That goal turned out to be a winner, and so just like Astle Day six months ago, Leicester fought back from behind to win 3-2 and take all three points away from The Hawthorns.

Evans had been warned earlier on in the match when Marc Albrighton threaded through a ball to his striker.

Vardy twisted and turned, and in the process turned Evans inside out before hitting the inside of the post.

Apart from those two moments though, the centre-half had another good game, covering Chris Brunt when he shot up the left flank and making split-second decisions key to any defender.

There will be question marks about Albion's defence for Riyad Mahrez's two goals though.

The Foxes started brightly, but Albion worked themselves into the game and when Salomon Rondon headed in his second goal in two games, it sparked the home side into life.

Ashley joins the board to oversee the sale of Wolves

WOLVES have appointed a new director to their board in the wake of Steve Morgan's departure.

Ashley Lewis, a long-time business associate of Wolves' ex-chairman, was formerly with Manchester City for more than 20 years, and has replaced Morgan.

Morgan has acted to install finance expert Lewis as he bids to ease the transition between owners. He put the club up for sale in September, just 48 hours after being verbally abused by supporters following Wolves' 1-1 draw at Deepdale against Preston.

Morgan has yet to speak publicly about his bombshell exit, but it is believed family reasons, as well as supporter dissatisfaction, were behind the shock walkout.

Lewis will act as Morgan's eyes and ears on the board and help facilitate the sale of the club. He joins Jez Moxey, John Gough and John Bowater on the board.

Bridgemere Group, of which Morgan is chairman, own Wolves and Morgan was keen to have a company representative on the board during what may be a protracted sale process.

Glassboys edge into next round

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Tivs in fightback to share the spoils

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Debut for Judge in half marathon

IT'S been a busy fortnight for athletes from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club.

Darren Judge made his debut in the blue hoops clocking 1.55.28 in the Leicester Half Marathon and Andy Litchfield finished in a time of 1.42.40 over the same distance in the Stroud Half Marathon.

Further south Simon Blizzard made it two personal best performances in two races backing up his Birmingham Half performance by travelling to Portsmouth to take part in the Great South Run over 10 miles and coming away with a 1.06.01 time and 320th place.

Closer to home a trio took part in Wolverhampton & Bilston's Coven Canter over 10k with John Andrews bringing them home in 49th place in 49.17, Lyn Sprague finished in 53rd in 49.42 and John Glover clocked 54.52 in 88th place.

Further afield a group travelled to the Emerald Isle to take part in the Dublin Marathon putting months of hard training to the test over the classic 26.2 mile distance.

On a tough course and in poor weather Dave Norman was first of the DK contingent to cross the line in 3.04.56 to take 551st place out of more than 15,000 starters, Steve Wood was 780th in 3.11.28 and Mark Judge finished in a respectable 3.17.46 to take 1081st.

Samantha Hemming came home with the performance of the day to clock a PB by half an hour finishing in 4.47.00 to smash her expected target.

A team travelled to Mansfield and the blue hoops of Ben Foster, Matt Biggs, James Wright and a late replacement in Simon Hughes came a very impressive 85th out of 206 teams competing

Garde sees size of the task at Villa

Spurs 3 Villa 1

NEW Aston Villa manager Remi Garde saw his team well beaten at White Hart Lane.

Villa remain bottom of the table after their seventh straight Premier League defeat.

And despite showing the fight for a battle against relegation, they need a dramatic boost from the changing of the Garde after taking only four points from their first 11 games.

Mousa Dembele fired Tottenham ahead after only three minutes and Dele Alli made it 2-0 on the stroke of half-time. Villa surprisingly pulled one back when Jordan Ayew's 79th-minute shot

Football

was deflected but a fine strike from Harry Kane in stoppage time made sure of the win for Spurs.

Garde's was a watching brief only with the match kicking off hours after he took charge.

To add to Villa's woes, captain Micah Richards learned shortly before kick-off that he was suspended after admitting a misconduct charge from the Football Association relating to the loss against Swansea.

Without their skipper, Villa started poorly and fell behind inside three minutes. As if to highlight

their many struggles, Spurs' Mousa Dembele collected a third-minute pass from Danny Rose on the left wing before cutting inside to the penalty area, easing past Ciaran Clark – starting in Richards' absence – and sending a left-footed shot through Brad Guzan's legs.

For a team so obviously bereft of confidence it seemed likely to be only the first of several goals that would soon follow.

The result not only consigned the visitors to further misery, it also meant their worst start to a top-flight season since 1919.

If Garde has taken one piece of knowledge from the match it is the size of the task he now faces.

WOLVES GOT OJO WORKING

Blues 0 Wolves 2

CHOOSING next week's lottery numbers will be easier to predict than this Wolves team.

Defeat after defeat after defeat, followed by an almost faultless away performance at St Andrew's, perfectly executed by a disciplined, organised and resolute side that knew exactly what its game plan was, and stuck to it.

Wolves won comfortably. Against a team they started the day nine points behind. So who saw that coming?

Kenny Jackett might have done, and he cannot be praised enough for masterminding what was an important victory, both in terms of supporter morale, and the bigger picture of the play-offs.

In reducing the gap to sixth-placed Blues to six points, it keeps their heads above water in the play-off race.

It also eases the pressure on Jackett, who knows that a season of drifting aimlessly along in mid-table obscurity with no hope of a push at the top six would probably cost him his job.

Surprise

But aside from a well-planned and well-delivered strategy, there was more behind this surprise victory.

Wolves have now won five Championship games this season, three of them since Steve Morgan's bombshell departure in late September.

And while any upturn or downturn in form cannot be attributed to the club being put up for a sale, a sudden change in transfer policy certainly can.

Morgan long campaigned for the virtues of youth in the Wolves squad, bankrolling the new training academy, and it is believed the policy to flood the first team with 'young and hungry' talent came directly from the top.

It is a policy Jackett has happily (in the public domain at least) worked within, largely untroubled.

But Wolves have gone to extreme lengths to continue that policy of late, shearing the squad of any players aged 30 or over, and of course controversially selling Richard Stearman for just £2m, electing instead to let the 20-year-olds Dominic



Nathan Byrne stakes his claim for a permanent run on the left wing, here taking on Maikel Kieftenbeld

Iorfa and Kortney Hause be given room to blossom and develop at centre-half.

With Iorfa – as is Jackett's preference – playing at right-back and Hause injured, that decision has proved folly, just weeks after it was enacted. And with Morgan gone Wolves have, low and behold, performed a complete U-turn and this week brought in a 31-year-old and a 34-year-old, in Mike Williamson and Grant Holt.

Experience has been one of the many attributes lacking in Wolves' season so far, but in Williamson and Holt they added 847 games' worth to their ranks in the space of two days.

And, in Williamson, what an instant difference

it made on Saturday. The centre-half, who has been there and done it with Newcastle, was magnificent.

Confusing? Yes, but better Wolves change their minds now and add a couple of wise heads, rather than pig-headed stick to a philosophy that was taking them nowhere, in the short term at least.

Elsewhere the dominant Kevin McDonald and the composed Iorfa were part of a solid defensive unit that rendered Emilio Martinez's gloves an unused item.

And Nathan Byrne excelled down the left, typifying Wolves' dynamic counter-attacking approach.

Steelers looking for new recruits

SANDWELL STEELERS women's American football team are planning a pre-Christmas recruitment drive.

The Steelers are beginning their preparations for their second season of action and the upcoming Sapphire Series that kicks off in February.

The games are five-a-side full contact clashes on a reduced-size playing area and the Steelers team is open to women from the age of 17.

The team's training sessions take place every Sunday from 1-3pm at Tipton Sports Academy.

Anyone interested in joining The Steelers should call Samantha Wilson on 07445 226485 or go to facebook.com/sandwellswafc.

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